

# THE NONCONFORMIST.

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## ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

### TACTICS.

WE are not fond of this word in connexion with ecclesiastical subjects. We have seen principle strangled by tactics so often, that we have been led, almost involuntarily, to attach an odium to mere management which does not belong to it. We know not that the fault is wholly ours. It is almost impossible for us to see dexterity walking perpetually arm in arm with pretence, without feeling strongly tempted to entertain a prejudice against it. Unfortunately, it is but too commonly met with in company with doings of an unsound character. There is a vulpine shrewdness belonging to insincerity which often passes for what is called practical wisdom; and we are in danger of confounding the one with the other, so much so, at least, as to treat the last with that disrespect which is due only to the first. It is competent, undoubtedly, to religious freedom societies to draw up reports, which, by a clever artifice, connect together as cause and effect great public ends and small private committees, although no single act shall have been done to link the two together—nay, although no act at all has been done in any direction. This is craft. It is certainly adapting the means to the end, but it is not wisdom, it is not honesty; but the more cleverly it is managed the more likely it is, unfortunately, to create an outcry against wisdom.

Nevertheless, when principles have been decided upon and duty determined, when we know the work which is before us to accomplish, and have settled the direction in which we will move towards its accomplishment, something yet remains to give a probability of ultimate success—viz., good tactics. Let us not be misunderstood. We do not mean manœuvre, at least in the common sense of that term. Tricks of all sorts, in every department, we despise. But we do mean that judicious selection of means which are in entire harmony with the end proposed—that able distribution of forces which will bring truth to bear most powerfully against the system we condemn, and that timely and simultaneous ordering of battle, which will do most to animate the spirits of our friends, and serve most effectually to strike panic amongst our foes. Thus much we hold to be necessary in the conducting of any great public cause. Simplicity of intention does not by any means infer simplicity of understanding. Wisdom is not wickedness, nor because we are honest need we become fools.

The proceedings of voluntaryists hitherto, at least in our own country, for we must draw an exception in favor of Scotland, have not been on a commanding scale. When roused, they can put forth a power which no party can despise. Of late, however, their movements have been somewhat of the straggling order. They have not only contended for small things, but in a small way. Where in one locality we have had energetic contests with ecclesiastical power, in fifty others that same power has been encouraged rather than disturbed. The work which ought to have been done, and might have been done with ease, by the combined operations of the whole body, has been left pretty much to the prowess of single-handed martyrs; whose sacrifice of their own comfort has done more to excite among their friends a smile of pity than a cheer of encouragement. Societies have sprung up one after another, for no purpose that we can divine, but to place in startling contrast flaming professions of what they would do with cold and mendacious reports of what they have done. There would seem to be no governing power, no central mind, no authority sufficiently authoritative to compel its own recognition, and to give unity to the plans and the movements of the vast community of dissenters. Every recommendation is wanting in an *imprimatur*, which all will admit to be authentic. Every document is without a seal. We war not only for details, but in detail. Our efforts may be summed up into one amount of petty enterprises, in nowise connected by any comprehensive scheme, often inconsistent one with another, and always unworthy of the magnitude of the question at stake.

If it were possible to devise a plan by which the great body of dissenters might be pervaded by a spirit of unity, without in the smallest degree putting in peril their individual independence, it would surely be greatly preferable to the present mode of proceeding. That our nonconforming churches should be jealous of recognising anything approaching to a paramount commanding influence, we neither wonder at nor deplore. A manly resentment of impertinent interference, an over active fear of sacerdotal combinations, may be well forgiven—at least amongst dissenters. But we see no necessity for the slightest intrenchment upon the freedom of any party, in order to the creation of an authority which may be universally recognised. If unity of plan necessarily presupposes assumption of undue prerogatives, the case is confessedly hopeless. But is it so? May not a start be made in the right direction, under the sanction, and at the call of a power to which all would feel in-

clined to bow in deference; which, without trenching upon individual liberty, would yet give an impulse both to opinion and action, such as we have looked for in vain in the recent proceedings of dissenters? May not proceedings be commenced in the right direction with a seriousness, a solemnity, an unanimity, and a determination of purpose, such as heretofore have confessedly been wanting; and in the absence of which, every plan however feasible, and every principle however important, has appealed to the dissenting body under great disadvantages?

We think there is no impossibility which necessarily precludes some such arrangement. We have a notion that a path may be yet struck out, upon which, all the sections of sincere voluntaryists may enter without suspicion, and along which they may travel in mutual good will. It is not our purpose in this paper to unfold such plan. This we must leave to our next number, but assuredly if a scheme of this sort may be propounded, it becomes the dissenting body not hastily to reject it. Their position claims from them a sober and unprejudiced examination of whatever may be proposed, with a view to the advancement of their principles. They can neither excuse indifference to the progress of their own cause, nor inattention to any proposals having for their object the overthrow of ecclesiastical domination. For our own part, we wish to raise no expectations which, hereafter, we may be found incompetent to meet. We do think, however, that the evil complained of is not irremediable. We have an idea that we can propose a remedy capable of meeting the views of all parties who are sincere. If that remedy should ultimately fail, we believe its failure will be ascribable, not to its own inherent defects, but rather to the want of fibre in the constitution of the dissenting body. But we will not now further detain our readers by preliminary remarks. We have only to observe, in conclusion, that although where great principles are concerned, apparently fortuitous conjunctures of events may sometimes turn up, unlooked for, the results we most ardently desire—those results are more frequently and more certainly brought about by the agency of an upright spirit wielding the instrumentality of judicious tactics.

### LATE DECISIONS IN ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.

WE are compelled to defer, which we do not without reluctance, any comment upon the important decisions given last week in the Consistorial courts of London and Norwich. The judgment in each case—in the case of Mr Charles Childs of Bungay, and of Mr Gosling of Braintree—was evidently given with all the elaboration due to the important consequences involved, and in each case was given in favour of the defendants. We should imagine that the mode in which Dr Lushington pronounced his judgment—his thorough exposure of the rottenness of the authorities cited by the lawyers of the plaintiff—his explanation of the philosophy of ecclesiastical law, especially of ecclesiastical law in relation to church rates—his demolition of Sir Herbert Jenner's authority by the counter and higher authority of the Queen's Bench—and his masterly destruction of the analogy suggested by the Court of Exchequer, between a majority refusing a church rate and a majority refusing to proceed to the election of a municipal officer, will be sufficient, in spite of the artful suggestions of the *Times*, to set the question of ecclesiastical taxation by a minority for ever at rest. At all events, the church has received a deadly wound; and it seems doubtful whether, independently of the aid of fresh legislation, she can long continue to uphold the iniquitous and vexatious system of church rates. We shall return to this subject.

#### BRAINTREE CHURCH RATE.

VELEY AND JOSLIN AGAINST GOSLING.

*Consistory Court, Wednesday, May 4.*

Dr LUSHINGTON delivered his judgment in this case, which was a question as to the admissibility of the libel in a suit for subtraction of church rate, in the parish of Braintree, Essex. Before he considered the principal question at issue in the case, he thought it expedient to dispose of some minor objections raised to the validity of the rate, and consequently to the admissibility of the libel. One of these objections arose thus: the rate being proposed in vestry, an amendment was moved, which concluded by refusing that rate; no poll was demanded or taken, but on a show of hands, the amendment was declared to have been carried; thereupon, the churchwardens, with the minority, proceeded to make the rate in dispute; and it was contended that it was necessary in the first instance that a poll should have been taken, on the ground that in many cases individuals being entitled, according to the statute, to a plurality of votes, the real number of votes could only be ascertained by a poll. He thought this objection could not be sustained, for this reason—that no poll being demanded, the whole vestry must be considered as acquiescing in the decision of the chairman; otherwise, in every case of difference of opinion in the vestry there must be a poll, though not demanded, which would occasion much inconvenience. It must also be remembered (though the argument was not conclusive), that if it were supposed that the majority were not in favour of the amendment, the fair presumption in this case would be that they were in favour of the rate. It had also been said that the estimates included repairs of the chancel door,



and in all ordinary cases the parishioners were not bound to repair the chancel, and a rate for, or including, such repairs could not be sustained. But he was not satisfied that the estimate did include the chancel. The last of these objections arose on the pleading in the libel, that a large number of the inhabitants rated were in such a state of poverty that the rate could not be recovered from them, and that to an extent of not less than £1,000 per annum. He presumed that this fact was so pleaded in order to meet any objection that the rate was excessive; but he did not apprehend that this could vitiate the rate, or render it his duty on that account to reject the libel. Having disposed of these objections, he now approached the new and important questions which had been raised in this case; and, first, it was necessary that he should give a brief summary of the facts. A decree issued from this court, founded on an affidavit setting forth that the church was out of repair; that rates had been for several years refused; the libel also setting forth the prohibition which had emanated in the former case from the court of Queen's Bench. That decree called upon the churchwardens and parishioners to show cause why a monition should not be granted to the churchwardens to take the proper steps to put the church into repair, and to call a vestry for a certain day for the purpose of making a rate, and directing the parishioners to attend and make such a rate. The churchwardens (only) appeared, and declared their readiness to submit themselves to the lawful commands of the Court. A monition then issued to the churchwardens and parishioners to the effect of the decree; the vestry met on the 15th July last; the rate was proposed; an amendment refusing the rate was moved; and, on a show of hands, the vicar (who was in the chair) declared the amendment carried; no poll was demanded. The churchwardens, with several others, then signed the present rate, which was not put again to the meeting. The question was, whether a rate so made is legal and valid. He wished it to be particularly borne in mind that the validity or invalidity of this particular rate was the sole question which he had to determine. He was anxious, as far as he could, to state his opinion, and the grounds of it, clearly and intelligibly, and he proposed therefore, to consider—first, the case of "Gaudern v. Selby," its bearing on the present case, and the weight it was entitled to; 2d, the effect of the judgment of the court of Queen's Bench in the former Braintree case; 3dly, the judgment of the court of Exchequer Chamber in the same case; 4thly, he should endeavour to examine the ecclesiastical and common law authorities with respect to the validity of the present rate; and 5thly, he should apply himself to the doctrine as to the election of corporate officers and members of parliament, which doctrine it had been contended ought to govern the present case, and to uphold the validity of the rate. With regard to the case of "Gaudern v. Selby," he had on the former occasion, having found it a precedent, yielded his own judgment to the superior authority of the court of Arches, and it had been argued that he ought to do so now. But not only had the doctrine laid down in that case, as it appeared to him, been repudiated by the court of Queen's Bench and the court of Exchequer Chamber, but the court of Queen's Bench had impugned that case by reason that no authority was cited to support it, and that in very strong terms. Discarding, therefore, the notion that the case of "Gaudern v. Selby," was any longer a precedent to govern and bind down his own judgment, he would next consider whether, though no longer binding as a precedent for the position attempted to be established in the former case, it ought to be considered as an authority, not to govern him, but to which he ought to pay consideration in the present case. He had again carefully examined the proceedings in that case, and he was not disposed to retract any one observation he had formerly made on it. The learned judge then detailed the various proceedings in that case, and commented upon their irregularity and the confusion apparent in them from the beginning to the end. But one circumstance in the case, he observed, was most remarkable—namely, that the sentence stated expressly that the rate was made by the vestry; yet the rate was proved not to have been made by the majority of the vestry; and it was clear from the notes both of Dr Arnold and Sir C. Robinson, that in deciding that case, Sir William Wynne had not the slightest notion that he was considering the question which he (Dr Lushington) had now to decide, and that consequently he could not have decided it. For these reasons he thought the case of "Gaudern v. Selby" not only not a precedent binding upon this court, but not even an authority. He thought it more than probable that the great pressure of business in 1799, when Lord Stowell had just become judge of the Admiralty court, with the great arrears, and the little interest which church rates excited at that time, caused the case to be discussed and disposed of with less research and attention to authorities than under other circumstances would probably have been the case. He would next examine the judgment of the court of Queen's Bench in the former Braintree case. Now, what was decided by the court of Queen's Bench, and how far was its decision applicable to the altered circumstances of the case now before the Court? It decided that the churchwardens could not, after a rate had been refused by a majority of the vestry, make a valid rate by their own sole authority at a subsequent time. Accurately speaking, that was the sole question before the Court, and, in legal strictness, the only question decided. But it was clear that the Court of Queen's Bench did not contemplate the distinction taken by the Court of Exchequer Chamber, and consequently laid no stress upon the fact that the rate was made by the churchwardens alone out of vestry, and not by the churchwardens and a minority of the parishioners in vestry. The decision of the Court of Queen's Bench went upon the principle that a rate made against the consent of the majority of the vestry was illegal. Then, how was he (Dr L.) to deal with that decision? Not as a precedent, fettering and controlling the free exercise of his own opinion in the present case, for the Court of Exchequer Chamber had told him that the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench was not to be so considered. But he apprehended that it was his duty to look at the principles on which that decision was founded, and see how far the principles and reasoning were applicable to the present case. The first principle was, that the law required a clear demonstration that a tax was lawfully imposed. The next principle was—though it appeared almost superfluous to notice it—that the power to impose a tax must be derived from act of parliament, the common law, or immemorial custom. A third was, that the fact of no usage prevailing in support of such a power of taxation was evidence against it. A fourth was, that a usage of imposing the same tax in a different way was evidence against the power claimed. Fifth, that absence of any mention of such power in the books of reports was evidence against it. Sixth, that the *onus* of proving the legality of the power claimed must devolve on those who maintained its legality. He now proceeded to examine the same case in the Exchequer Chamber. Now, what did that Court do when the case came under its consideration, as a court of error? It agreed with the Court of Queen's Bench, that there was no custom to warrant a rate so made, and no authority for its validity; but the Court held (and he quoted its words) that "there is a wide and substantial difference between the churchwardens alone, or the churchwardens and the minority together making a rate at the meeting of the parishioners when the refusal takes place, and the churchwardens possessing the power of rating the parish by themselves at any future time, however distant." It was to this wide and substantial difference between that case and the present to which he must direct his attention. But, first, he would notice what the court of error declared it would not do, and what it had reserved. The Court, adverting to "Gaudern v. Selby," said—"We do not enter into the discussion whether a rate so made by the churchwardens at the parish meeting where the parishioners are met would be valid or not, or how far such a

case may be analogous to that of the members of the corporation aggregate, who being assembled together for the purpose of choosing an officer of the corporation, the majority protest against and refuse altogether to proceed to any election; in which case they have been held to throw away their votes, and the minority who have performed their duty by voting, have been held to represent the whole number." Again, referring to a rate made in vestry by the churchwardens and the minority, the Court said—"Whilst we give no opinion upon the point, we desire to be understood as reserving to ourselves the liberty of forming an opinion whenever the case shall occur." He conceived he had now sufficiently disposed of the cases of "Gaudern v. Selby," and "Velej and Joslin v. Burder," and that he was justified in approaching the present question unfettered by those cases, as a question undecided by the court of Queen's Bench and the Exchequer Chamber. Then, was the present rate valid by the ecclesiastical or common law, without resorting to the analogy of corporation law? There was, in the opinion of the Court of Exchequer Chamber, a wide and substantial difference between a rate made by the churchwardens and a minority in vestry, and a rate made by the churchwardens alone out of vestry. It was important to ascertain in what that difference consisted, for upon its existence depended the applicability of a decision opposite to that which courts of common law applied to the former case. There was one important difference between the two cases—viz., the time when the rate was made, whether in the vestry immediately after the refusal by a majority, or at a subsequent period by the churchwardens alone; for it was obvious that if the rate were valid when not made in vestry by the churchwardens alone, it would be impossible to fix any period short of their whole incumbency within which it must be made. There would be nothing to conclude the time. The difference would be of less importance if the doctrine of the vestry being purely ministerial should be adopted to its full extent; but upon the supposition that the vestry have some discretion, the distinction was important. The next point of difference was, that where a rate was made by the churchwardens in vestry, there may be a minority; if made out of vestry, it must be the act of the churchwardens alone. He could not perceive that this distinction was of any essential importance, for he could not understand how the minority could confer any legality upon the act which would not equally attach upon it in common if done by the churchwardens alone. Other differences he could find none. Then, do any authorities or ecclesiastical law so apply to the case thus distinguished as to render this rate valid, though the former was illegal? There was one peculiarity attending the making of this rate, that it was made in consequence of a monition issued by the court for that purpose, and therefore the rate was made in pursuance of the directions of the Court. What were the authorities in ecclesiastical law in favour of a rate made by the churchwardens and a minority of the vestry? He found no such authority, with the single exception of the case of "Gaudern v. Selby," and that, if an authority at all, would be an authority for a rate by the churchwardens alone. Since the former Braintree case was decided, Archdeacon Hale had published a collection of precedents with reference to the proceedings in the ecclesiastical courts to enforce the repairs of churches; but in not one was there a trace of an authority affirming the validity of a rate made by the churchwardens and a minority of the vestry, and a precedent applicable to the present case would be a case where a rate was made in that manner, and afterwards enforced by the ecclesiastical court: a case where proceedings were had against individual parishioners, not to recover the rate, but to punish them, would not tend to uphold the rate, but the contrary. Recollecting the deep interest which this question had excited, and what painful investigations had been made by the most learned persons, and that a question nicely divided from the present had been adjudicated before twelve judges of the realm, and no ecclesiastical authority produced, he might venture to say that none was in existence. A similar observation applied to common law authorities. The judges had said there were none applying to a rate made by churchwardens alone: had there been any applying to a rate made by churchwardens and a minority in vestry, they must have been produced. He was, moreover, of opinion that the authorities cited against the validity of a former rate, had a strong application to the present case; they spoke of a majority in vestry being necessary; all appeared to assume that the very foundation of a rate was the resolution of the majority. He now addressed himself to the last question—namely, whether, there being no authority in common or ecclesiastical law in support of the validity of this rate, it is, nevertheless, to be sustained by analogy to the law applicable in particular cases to corporations and elections. In dealing with this question, he felt the utmost distrust of his inability to discuss or determine with adequate bearing a point foreign to the practice of these courts, and if this doctrine were really the foundation on which such rights stand, it seemed not a little extraordinary that it should for ages have been unknown to these courts, to whose exclusive jurisdiction belonged all causes of the recovery of church rates. In stating the proposition, he should use the words of the Court of Error—"Members of a corporation, aggregate, being assembled together for the purpose of choosing an officer of the corporation, the majority protest against and refuse altogether to proceed to any election; in which case they throw away their votes, and the minority who have performed their duty by voting, have been held to represent the whole number." Before he could trace the analogy between the cases of elections corporate or otherwise, and church rates, he must consider the legal origin and usages of church rates. That the parishioners were bound to repair the nave of the church was a proposition established by all authorities; but with regard to the origin of that allegation, its nature, and the remedies for enforcing it, there was much room for difference of opinion. The statute of *Circumspecte agatis* appeared to establish fully these points:—1, that petitioners were accustomed before the passing of that statute, to repair the nave or body of the church; 2, that the spiritual courts punished persons who refused to do so; 3, that the temporal court had interfered by prohibition; 4, that by this statute they were restrained from so doing. Consequently, the legality of the obligation and the right of the spiritual courts to punish, were established by the statute law of the land. As to the nature of that obligation, nothing was said in the statute; but all the authorities from the earliest times showed what it was. The whole nation in those times was of one religion; to profess a different opinion was heresy. To support that religion was a religious duty, binding upon the consciences of all, to secure the performance of rites deemed essential to the safety of the soul. The upholding of the sacred edifice by those bound to uphold it, and the religious nature of the obligation, gave the jurisdiction to enforce it to those courts which arose out of, and were connected with, the religious establishment, the foundation of whose proceedings was *pro salute animæ*. The obligation was *in personam*, and not *in rem*; it existed independently of property, though the extent and degree to which the obligation was to be enforced must be measured by property, or, in other words, by the ability of the individual. Ability included every species of property; it was a direct tax upon none; it was no *lien* upon land or on stock, nor on one more than another. In those days, however, land and stock constituted the sole property yielding a profit; therefore, land and stock became in practice a criterion of ability; but in ascertaining the ability, other property might be taken into consideration, as ships and stock in trade. He proceeded next to consider the mode by which this obligation was carried into effect. The statute *Circumspecte agatis* was wholly silent as to church rates. He (Dr Lushington) knew not the origin of church rates, nor any authority which



fixed a date. The earliest case is in the Year Books, in the time of Edward III. But their origin was naturally accounted for. The legality of the usage of compelling the parishioners to repair, established by the statute, naturally led to the ascertainment of the ability of those so bound. A rate made in vestry by themselves was the fairest and most equitable mode of measuring the liability. The question of remedy was an important branch of the consideration. All the remedies appeared to be in strict unison with the origin and nature of the obligation; they emanated from the ecclesiastical court alone, because the obligation was a religious obligation on the conscience, not a charge upon property, nor a common-law obligation with regard to property, in the ordinary sense of that term. Before the statute, the spiritual courts punished, not for not making rates, for *non constat* that rates existed, but because the repairs were left undone by those who ought to have done them. Such punishment must have been excommunication, and other ecclesiastical inflictions, and fines, as the statute showed. Precisely a similar course of proceeding followed when rates had become customary—criminal proceedings issuing from the ecclesiastical court—the result, interdict, and excommunication. These remedies were all-powerful in those times, both with regard to the making and enforcing rates. Then came the reformation, but no toleration. Not only the old remedies remained, but a new and most powerful engine for enforcing obedience was established—the High Commission court, which continued to exercise its extraordinary power till annihilated by the statute 17 Car. I. Its authority was invoked for compelling the repairs of churches, as appeared from the 86th canon. Could any doubt the efficiency of this engine when its powers were administered by Archbishop Laud and his coadjutors? After that court had been deprived of its functions, the ordinary ecclesiastical courts still exercised their powers, for the most part (as appeared from Mr Hale's book) in the criminal form, by proceedings, *ex officio*, and not in a church-rate cause. All these original and legal forms remained untouched by statute: whether effectual now, it was not for him to say—they were not absolute in law—they had a legal existence; but they had never been applied to enforce or punish for not paying such a rate as this. It had been said that a *mandamus* has been refused because church-rates are of ecclesiastical cognizance. What is the true meaning of this reason? The history of the obligation to repair afforded the true explanation; that church rates were a mere incident to that obligation, which is of spiritual, not lay cognizance. He now came to the rules governing elections, in order to compare the two subjects. The case of "Oldham v. Wainwright," 2 Barr. 1017, had been cited as establishing a doctrine directly analogous to the present case. Now, what were the facts of that case? An election was to take place of a town-clerk for Nottingham; when the electors met, nine voted for Seagrave, and the majority present did not vote at all, considering the office to be filled, the mayor having nominated a person to that office. The majority, consisting of 11, protested against the election, but no other candidate was nominated. The Court of Queen's Bench decided that the mayor had no right to nominate that person to fill the office, and that the election of Mr Seagrave was a good election. With regard to the circumstances, it was impossible not to see that two cases could not be more widely different than that case and the present. But it might still afford some principle applicable to it. Lord Mansfield decided in favour of the validity of Seagrave's election, and upon a very clear and intelligible ground—that the electors present, who did not vote, virtually acquiesced in the election of those who did. Another principle adverted to in that case was, that at an election, those who vote for an unqualified person, with notice of his incapacity, throw away their votes. In the present case, the rate was not proposed to the vestry, nor put by the chairman; there was no voting of any kind thereon. The two cases being thus totally different, he must inquire whether such difference constituted distinction. Was an election of a corporate officer, or member of parliament, *in eadem materia* with the making of a church rate? It appeared to him not. In the case of an election, the act to be done is choosing a qualified individual to supply a vacancy. An election began must be finished. The making of a church rate involved many considerations; how could it be said that because a rate is proposed it must be voted, or that, like an election, once begun, it must be finished by making some rate? Compare the cases a little further. "Oldham v. Wainwright" was decided on the principle that the electors who did not vote at all acquiesced in Seagrave's election. Could the same be predicated of this vestry? Did they not vote at all? They voted for the amendment, refusing the rate. To say, in the face of these proceedings, that they acquiesced in the making of the rate would be to make a declaration in defiance of common sense. Then, if acquiescence be the principle which governed the case "Oldham v. Wainwright," it did not exist here. He would now notice another supposition, that though the majority did vote, their votes were thrown away, in the same manner as votes given for an unqualified candidate. No one could contend that all votes against a church rate were in all cases thrown away, for if so, it would be absurd to call a vestry for such a purpose. Were the votes thrown away because the repairs were wanting and a rate was necessary? Why, no rate made by a majority was good unless it were so. Again, what difference arose from the vestry being called in pursuance of a monition calling upon the parish to meet and make a rate? That this monition had been disobeyed was perfectly clear; but the question now was, not how obedience was to be enforced, or the parties disobeying punished, but whether a rate made by the minority is valid. The ordinary definition of a legal church rate is "a rate made by the majority of the vestry." Suppose a *mandamus* to do an act ordinarily and legally done by certain persons—as to put a corporation seal; suppose part willing to obey, and part not, could the court of Queen's Bench accept the will of a part for the deed of the majority? Would they not compel the majority to do the act? Having now considered the analogy adverted to by the court of Exchequer Chamber, as a question thereafter to be considered, the case of "Oldham v. Wainwright," and the reference to the law of elections, the impression upon his mind was, that none of those principles or authorities were applicable to the present case. If this new doctrine be the law, it was a matter of wonderment to him that, in the course of centuries, when so many cases must have called for its application, when so many powerful minds had dedicated their learning and ingenuity to this question, it should first have been discovered in the year 1841, especially when he recollected that the doctrine would have taken away all necessity for interdict, excommunication, and interposition on the part of the High Commission court. Though the necessity for the use of this remedy must have so often occurred, in all the books there is *altum silentium* respecting this panacea. Surely stronger presumptive proof against this analogy could not be adduced. It had, however, been argued, that admit it we must, for the ancient remedies were no longer fitted for the times. That argument had been already answered by the court of Queen's Bench; but if it had not, was he judicially to decide that that which the law had not altered was inefficient for its purpose, or extinguished as obsolete? Did the court of Queen's Bench so treat the wager of battle in the case of "Ashford v. Thornton?" But if he were at liberty to pronounce ancient remedies inefficient or obsolete, could he invent a new one? Could he usurp the office of the legislature, and *jus facere non dicere*? If he could consider the doctrine laid down as governing the law of elections to have an analogy to the present case, he was bound to decide it, not by the rules of the common law, but by those of the ecclesiastical law; so said the statute, and so said Lord Coke. Now, that this doctrine existed in the ecclesiastical law, or had been imported into it, had

never been attempted to be shown: he could not find the faintest trace of it. He was, therefore, of opinion that this rate was not supported by any authority, and that the supposed analogy between this proceeding and elections, corporate or parliamentary, did not apply. It was, consequently, his duty to pronounce the rate invalid, and to reject the libel. He was well aware of the heavy responsibility which had attached to him in the discharge of this arduous duty; how many evil consequences, or supposed evil consequences, might be attributed to his miscarriage, if he had failed to discover the legal truth; but he had industriously, earnestly, and fearlessly done his best to ascertain the law. Once convinced of what the law is, he never would be induced to resort to subtle and ingenious refinements to defeat that law, whatever might be, in the opinion of others, the pernicious consequences of adhering to it. He was well persuaded, from the history of this country, that the continuance of bad laws, and the prevention of good laws, had in no small measure been occasioned by laudable, though mistaken, endeavours so to wrest the law to particular notions of justice and expediency, and, by the invention of subtle distinctions, to ward off evil and injurious results which, if they be the effect of the law, ought to be remedied, not by judges, but by the legislature.

Mr Joseph Cooper and Mr Thomas Box, of Lawrence Pountney lane, appeared at the Mansion house yesterday week, before the Lord Mayor, to answer the complaints of Mr Drew, for non-payment of church rates. Mr Hobler inquired if there were any legal difficulties. Mr Cooper stated that his partner and himself had no legal objections to advance, but that they had Christian objections to them; that they could not pay them, without being conscious that they would be acting inconsistently with their religious duty; that the New Testament did not warrant civil legislation in religious matters, and that if the demands were for a civil purpose, they would be most cheerfully paid. Having said thus much against the system, he wished to be allowed to point to the fruits of it, as they existed in the parish of Allhallows. The tithes of that parish were paid to a clergyman who did not perform the duties, but resided at a distance, having another living in Surrey, and being, besides, a prebend of Chichester cathedral, whilst the poor man who performed all the duties of the parish, lived in comparative destitution up two pair of stairs, over a school, and was obliged to sleep and take his meals in the same room. The Lord Mayor stated that the business must take its usual legal course; but added that no man could defend such things.

The Temperance hall, at Ipswich, was last week subjected to 4s. 2d. church rate, and the proprietor, Mr Alexander, being a member of the society of Friends, refused to pay. A warrant was consequently obtained, and the constable and his assistant, entered the hall, and for this rate of four shillings and twopence took away no less than sixteen forms, each six feet long, which cannot be replaced for less than six shillings and sixpence a form, the rough stuff to make each being calculated at not less than three shillings, thus causing a loss to the proprietor of four pounds nineteen shillings and ten pence, upon this distress of four shillings and two pence.

A very numerous vestry meeting of the inhabitants of Greenwich was held on Friday evening, in Roan's school room, for the purpose of making a church rate. The vicar, the Rev. W. A. Soames, took the chair and the vestry clerk read the estimate made by the churchwardens, Messrs Cole and Morley, on which the call for a church rate was grounded. It appeared that the amount required for salaries, &c. was £327, the amount calculated to be expended on the repair of the edifice £430, making a total of £757. A twopenny rate would produce £590, which with burial fees £10, herbage rents £21, and money arising from charities £10, would leave a balance of £25 against the parish. Mr Kadwell proposed a rate of 2d. in the pound. Mr Reeve seconded the rate. Mr Bass said he should not venture to take up their time with arguing the injustice of church rates, for that seemed to be generally admitted. In Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, and other large towns, church rates had been banished, and banished for ever; and in the neighbouring town (St Paul's, Deptford) the same result had been followed with the same effects. In Greenwich there was sufficient revenue even for extraordinary expenses, and he should move that a church rate was unnecessary, and that it be not granted. Mr Haycraft and others followed, and the question was put, when there appeared—for the rate, 64; against it, 111—majority, 47. The chairman amidst tremendous cheering, declared the rate lost. Colonel Forman demanded a poll, which was fixed for Thursday and Friday.

Not satisfied with being twice discomfited, the churchwardens are again moving in the matter of their rotten rate. They have made a fresh application to the court of Queen's Bench, for a *mandamus*, to compel the chapelwardens of Wilsden and Haworth to pay the proportion allotted to them, and have obtained a rule nisi. But now they know Dr Lushington's decision, we would recommend them to drop it; and, as honest men, repay the money they have collected in the other townships, under what we have all along considered to be "false pretences."—*Bradford Observer*.

It is publicly stated, that there has been a smart contest for the living of St John's, Deritend, at Birmingham, worth £600 a year, to which the Rev. Mr Smith was elected last week by a majority of 298 over his opponent the Rev. Mr Storer. The committees of the two candidates, it is stated, distributed liberally "tickets of refreshment" which entitled the holders to a certain amount of beer and tobacco, and cars were driving about the streets with large placards upon them to induce the parishioners to vote. The scenes that took place are reported to have been of a very revolting kind.

## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Cattle, meat, &c., against importation of, 10.	Lord's day, for better observance of, 9.
Church patronage (Scotland), for abolition of, 2.	Maynooth college, against further grant, 13.
Corn laws, for repeal of, 26.	Poor Law Amendment act, for alteration of, 21.
Education (Ireland), for alteration of system, 14.	Property tax, against, 16.
Factories, for limiting hours of labour, 26.	Roman Catholics, for equal civil rights, 12.
Leather, against reduction of duty on, 2.	Timber duties, for reduction of, 1.
	Universal suffrage, for, 1.

#### PUBLIC BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

##### BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Incumbents Leasing bill.                  | 3. Double Costs bill. |
| 2. Ecclesiastical Corporations Leasing bill. |                       |



## CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Punishment of Death (Ireland) bill. | 5. Australia and New Zetland bill. |
| 2. Public Houses bill.                 | 6. Excise Duties Compounds bill.   |
| 3. Property Tax bill.                  | 7. Ecclesiastical Residences bill. |
| 4. Roasted Malt bill.                  |                                    |

## BILLS READ A THIRD TIME, AND PASSED.

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Civil Bill Decrees (Ireland) bill. | 3. Exchequer Bills bill.               |
| 2. Turnpike Trusts (Ireland) bill.    | 4. Punishment of Death (Ireland) bill. |

## DEBATES.

Wednesday, May 4.

## CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

On the order of the day, for the second reading of the Church Patronage (Scotland) bill, Sir JAMES GRAHAM, after stating how matters stood with reference to previous attempts to settle the church of Scotland question, intimated that government were in negotiation with the parties interested, and that they were somewhat sanguine of being able to introduce a satisfactory measure which would maintain the civil rights of the patron, the people, and the authority of the spiritual courts.

Mr CAMPBELL, on that intimation, declared his willingness to postpone the second reading of his bill for six weeks, in order to see what the intentions of government were.

Mr FOX MAULE expressed his surprise at this course. As far as he could gather from Sir J. Graham, the government measure would be a reproduction of that of the Earl of Aberdeen, which had been repudiated by the people of Scotland. It seemed to him that a compromise had taken place; and as he did not believe that the government had changed their minds, or intended to bring in a more comprehensive measure than that of Lord Aberdeen, he would not agree to any delay, but insisted that the second reading of the bill should forthwith take place.

Mr CAMPBELL denied that he had been overruled, or had withdrawn his bill.

Mr P. M. STEWART declared his conviction that the government measure would turn out to be Lord Aberdeen's bill; and expressed his regret at the course adopted by Mr Campbell in proposing to postpone his bill.

Mr WALLACE said that the people of Scotland desired to have the power of electing their own parsons, and if therefore he supported the bill, it would be with the intention of carrying it further than it went.

Sir ROBERT PEEL said it was quite unusual to take the course of preventing a member from postponing a measure which he had brought in. Mr Fox Maule objected to a delay of six weeks, yet he was three years in office without attempting anything himself. The sole motive which actuated the government was a desire to settle these unfortunate differences, to which they were encouraged by voluntary communications from men of both parties in Scotland. If there were a hope of settling this question, with the general acquiescence of all moderate men, maintaining the just rights of the church and the people, he trusted the House would not force on a premature discussion on it.

Mr RUTHERFORD did not think that the postponement of the discussion would tend to a settlement of the question. If the government meant to legislate on the principles of Lord Aberdeen's bill, they would make a schism in the church of Scotland which would shake it to its foundation.

Mr HUME, having lately visited Scotland, could testify to the anxiety of the people of Scotland on the subject. But he thought that time should be afforded to the government to enable them to bring forward their measure, as the question could only be satisfactorily settled by a government.

Captain WEMYSS also thought that the government should have time, though he did not think their bill would satisfy the people of Scotland.

On a division there appeared for the immediate reading of the bill, 48; for postponing it for six weeks, 131.

Thursday, May 5.

## BOROUGH MAGISTRATES.

Mr HUTT moved for copies of circulars sent last year by the new government to the town clerks, requiring information as to the state of the magistracy. He said that the Municipal Corporation bill had passed the house of Commons on the understanding, declared by Lord John Russell, that he would make his appointments of magistrates in consultation with the town councils. The town councils might occasionally recommend unfit magistrates in the towns, but so might the lords-lieutenants in the counties; yet they would not supersede the lords-lieutenants in this function. Any citizen who was thought good enough by his fellow-burgesses ought to be good enough for the minister. Yet the present Secretary of State had added some four hundred individuals to the town magistracy; of which the avowed reason was to redress the balance, by appointing a sufficient proportion of conservatives, which he supposed was for the purpose of licensing the alehouses, and influencing the elections.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM had hoped his conduct in this matter would have been brought forward in a tangible shape, instead of a mere motion for some papers of course, which could not be refused. He agreed that these local tribunals ought to be fairly constituted; but when the present government took office they found the municipal magistracy steeped up to the very lips in politics. He enumerated a long list of towns where, with a few solitary exceptions, the whole were of the whig party. This being the case, he had increased the total number to 1,435; he had not removed one magistrate of those whom he found already appointed; but he had so shaped his additions that there were now 745 whig-radicals, and only a minority of 629 conservatives. In the selection of these conservatives he had acted on his own responsibility; and it was not imputed that any objection existed to the individuals so selected by him.

Mr FOX MAULE found fault with the party tone of Sir J. Graham's speech. The magistrates, from whom the people were to seek justice, should be men whom the majority of that people approved. He denied that any blame attached to the principle on which Lord John Russell had made his appointments, and challenged Sir J. Graham to prove his imputations upon the noble lord. If the object of the government had been effected by filling up vacancies, as they occurred, with conservatives, he should not have complained.

A long debate ensued, in which many members on both sides took part, and which was made up of recriminations between the whigs

and tories. At the conclusion, Sir R. PEEL vindicated the proceedings of the government in the matter.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL did the same by the late ministry, and concluded his speech by denying that he had ever changed his politics.

An hon. gentleman, in the course of this debate, stated that he (Lord J. Russell) had changed his politics very much within the last twelve months from what they were twenty years ago. He was not conscious that he had made any such change [hear, and a laugh]. He had thought that he had been as consistent as the right hon. gentleman, the Secretary of State for the Home Department [hear, and laughter]. It was about twenty years ago that he brought on the question of reform in parliament. He brought it on at that time, not thinking that it would be a remedy for distress, but that it was necessary for the practical evils which then existed in respect to the representation of the country. He was then regarded as a moderate reformer and whig, and he remained nothing more than a moderate reformer and whig at the present day [ironical cheers from the ministerial side]. If he had ever deviated from that line of conduct he thought the only time, as far as he could recollect, that he had ever made such deviation, was in 1830, when the right hon. gentleman the Secretary of State for the Home Department used to bring on his motions asking for the production of lists of the privy council [hear, hear, and laughter]. He owned that he was induced by the eloquence and captivating declamation of the right honourable gentleman [great laughter] to follow him when he made his denunciations against the "birds of prey" [continued laughter]—when he used to comprise in his sweeping denunciations all persons, in whatever situations they might be, who belonged to the privy council, not remembering that the privy council comprehended persons not only exercising political functions but judicial and ecclesiastical functions too [hear]. In voting for those motions he did think that he had given greater countenance to extreme radical opinions than had been consistent with the rest of his political career [laughter]. He certainly very much regretted that part of his conduct, and he was sure that the right hon. gentleman must also have repented of the course he then took [laughter], especially when he remembered that the parties against whom those fierce denunciations were directed were now his friends, colleagues, and supporters; and that those against whom he called for all that indignation, whom he represented as deep in corruption [hear, hear], utterly unfaithful to the trust they held [hear, hear], and unfit to govern the country from their want of public virtue [hear, hear], were the very persons in favour of whom he had now appointed 400 magistrates [great laughter]. Therefore, although he might have, as the hon. member for Dublin stated, made some change in the course of those twenty years, and might have some votes to repent of, as having too great a democratic tendency, it would still be a consolation to him to know that his repentance would not be so deep, nor his conversion so extreme, as that of the right hon. gentleman [great laughter and cheers].

Mr. HUTT replied, and the motion was agreed to without a division.

Friday, May 7.

## COMPROMISES OF CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.

Mr ROEBUCK rose pursuant to notice to put a question to the member for Reading and other members of the house. He pleaded in justification of this course some extraordinary circumstances which had recently taken place in that town, resulting in a compromise of seats in the house.

I have heard, and I have reason to believe, that the election committee in the case of the controverted return for the town of Reading have had their business put an end to by a compromise made on the part of one or both of the members sent to this house as representatives of that borough. I have also heard and have reason to believe that a bond has been entered into with their knowledge, if not their name, to the effect that one or either of them, though both were declared by the committee to have been duly elected, should resign, or vacate his seat by the acceptance of the Chiltern hundreds, thus defeating the determination of the committee appointed to try the merits of the petition in their case, and thus committing a violation of the privileges of this house.

He begged to inquire of the noble lord whether he was cognisant of any such arrangement?

Lord CHELSEA declined to answer the question.

Mr ROEBUCK put a similar question to the other member for Reading.

Mr C. RUSSELL denied the right of Mr Roebuck or any other individual member to catechise him.

I hold my seat in this house by as perfect a right as that which entitles him to the representation of the city of Bath. I was sent here by a large majority of a numerous constituency. If there existed any doubt with respect to my conduct as a candidate, or any reason to question the propriety of my conduct as a member of this house, then I beg leave to say that the subject would be matter for inquiry by the committee appointed to try the merits of the petition, and not for an investigation to be conducted by the hon. and learned member for Bath.

He should therefore decline to answer the question, and leave the hon. gentleman to draw any inference he thought proper.

Mr ROEBUCK was perfectly satisfied with that answer. He then put a similar question to Captain Plumridge, member for Penryn.

Capt. PLUMRIDGE replied that he understood that a compromise had been entered into with respect to the petition against the return, but he was not cognisant of it till afterwards, and he by no means approved of it. He had left it in the hands of his lawyers.

Mr. ROEBUCK expressed his thanks to the hon. member for his candour. He then put the following question to the member for Nottingham, Sir J. C. Hobhouse—

I wish to ask him whether he has been a party to, or cognizant of, or whether, being cognizant of it, he has taken any advantage of an agreement, or is about to take advantage of any agreement, of the following description:—that a sum of money has been paid down to avoid the investigation of the committee respecting the bribery alleged to have taken place at Nottingham; that a further sum has been paid down as a pledge, by which it should be permitted to an hon. gentleman to walk over the course, as it is called; whether he has any knowledge of it, or whether any such terms, or anything approximating to them, had been come to?

Sir J. C. HOBHOUSE peremptorily refused to answer the question.

Mr. ROEBUCK remarked that Sir G. Larpent having accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, he could not put the question to him. He then asked the member for Lewes whether a compromise had not taken place for that borough.

Mr ELPHINSTONE said, a compromise had taken place with his colleague on the other side of the house; but neither directly nor indirectly had he been a party to any arrangement of the sort, nor had he any intention of accepting the Chiltern hundreds.

Mr ROEBUCK thanked the hon. gentleman for his candour. He then put the question to the members for Harwich.

Major BERESFORD denied the right of the member for Bath thus to question him. He would give all the necessary information to the House, but not to Mr Roebuck.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER then moved the order of the day for the committee on the Income Tax bill; but after some discussion gave way, that Mr Roebuck might proceed with his motion.

Mr ROEBUCK said, that if his course was an extraordinary one, so also were the circumstances he had to bring under their notice. He stood there to charge the members for Nottingham, Harwich, Reading, Penryn, and Lewis, with being cognizant of and participators in bribery. He was driven to this course because the cases had been withdrawn from the regular tribunals; but he hoped the House would not allow of their escape.

Let me by one illustration point out the kind of proceedings that may take place under such a system. Suppose there is a general election, and that the town of Nottingham is about to be contested—a sort of parliamentary Napoleon determines to conquer the town, or, in the language of the historian, to "jump on it with both his feet." He rushes down to the town, bribes every man, frightens his opponent out of the town, and is returned to parliament as member for the place. The opposing can-



didate enters a petition against his return. Say that the committee for the trial of that petition is to be struck next Monday. But fear seizes upon him when about to come before the tribunal which the law provides for the investigation of his proceedings, and he desires to escape from that tribunal. What then do the successful parties do? Why, they enter into a compromise with the opposing candidate, propose to pay down a sum of money for the purpose of exculpating themselves and escaping the scrutiny of the committee; and further pledge themselves to allow the ousted candidate to walk over the course.

All these circumstances he had heard alleged to; and if the House would refer the matter to a committee, he believed he could prove them. Next, he would go to Reading; and he had reason to believe that a bond had been executed, obliging the noble member for that borough to vacate his seat by a certain day. There had been charges before the election committee of bribery and intimidation practised by the sitting members; and in one day the whole was hushed up. He then read the accusations contained in the Nottingham petition; and described those in the Reading petition to be nearly as strong. Next, as to Lewes; his charge was, that the members were returned by bribery; that the petitioners had proof of it; and that one of the sitting members had retired.

The sitting member, being a prudent man, and connected as the parties were together, he retires, and the hon. and gallant gentleman opposite now sits in his place. I am not accusing the men, I am accusing the system. I say, the hon. and gallant gentleman is there in consequence of the system, and it is the system which I want to expose. I care not for the men. There sits the hon. and gallant member (pointing to Captain Fitzroy) and here sits my hon. and learned friend (pointing to Mr Elphinstone). Where, and O where is his colleague [laughter]? Echo answers, "Where" [renewed laughter]? He is gone.

At Penryn the like occurrences took place, and the gallant member was to retire, and why?

Captain PLUMRIDGE—Because my people made a bad bargain.

Mr ROEBUCK continued—

Now, I ask this House and the people of England whether this is the language which ought to be used in reference to such a case [hear]? A bad bargain! Do we buy and sell the representation [cheers]? If we come to this house fairly and freely to represent our fellow-countrymen, to watch over their interests, to take care of all that is dear to them and ourselves, is the hon. and gallant member to be permitted to say that it is a "bad bargain" by which he will be removed from this house [cheers]? I do entreat the House not to permit such language to be used without reprehension. If these are the feelings of the hon. and gallant member on the subject of the representation, I must say he is unworthy of a seat in this house, and in this case July will be a happy month for us [laughter].

With respect to Harwich, the sitting members were accused by three petitions of bribery and treating. The petitioners had retired, and one of the members was to retire too. All he wanted now was an inquiry. Such cases ought not to be considered as the mere affairs of the candidates. It was not fit that a candidate should buy a whole constituency, as at Nottingham, and then sell it to the petitioner against him. Was any man here so bold as to refuse him an inquiry? He hoped to have his motion seconded by the right hon. member for Nottingham, whose character was so deeply implicated. He concluded by moving for a committee of inquiry.

Mr HENRY FITZROY, member for Lewes, seconded the motion. He challenged inquiry. He had petitioned for a seat which he considered justly his own; and was he to blame for taking possession of it when conceded to him? He had been party to no pecuniary, to no unworthy, compromise: and in his life he had never, directly or indirectly, sought a vote by corruption.

Captain PLUMRIDGE solemnly protested that he had not paid, that he had not promised to pay, and that he did not intend to pay, one shilling in respect of his late election.

Mr WYNN moved the adjournment of the debate, and was seconded by Mr WARD. Mr WYNN recommended it to the House in future to exercise more severity than heretofore against witnesses committed for prevarication, who had hitherto been let off with periods of imprisonment far too brief.

Mr WAKLEY wished the inquiry to go a great deal further than the few cases now mentioned. There were 50 quite as bad. The debate was then adjourned to Monday.

#### THE INCOME TAX.

The House then went into committee on the Income Tax bill, beginning with clause 88. On arriving at clause 96, Mr HUME proposed that the income on which the tax should be paid should be calculated from the average profits of one year instead of three. On a division, the amendment was rejected by 76 to 27.

The various clauses up to 188 having been agreed to,

Mr HUME moved an amendment on clause 188, that the act should remain in force for one year only, and not for three. On a division there appeared, for the amendment, 52, for the original clause, 174; majority, 122.

Mr P. HOWARD proposed another amendment upon the clause, to the effect that the income tax should continue in operation for two years only. The motion was afterwards withdrawn and the clause was passed.

The last clause, 189, was then agreed to.

In answer to Mr FOX MAULE the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that it had been determined to exempt the funds used for the repairs of dissenting places of worship from the operation of the income tax.

Mr REDHEAD YORKE proposed, "That it be an instruction to the committee on the Property Tax bill, that they have power to introduce a clause to exempt attorneys and solicitors from the annual payment of certificate duties during the time they shall be subject to a tax upon income." Colonel SIBTHORP supported the motion, and the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed it. The committee divided, when the numbers were, ayes, 18, noes, 183; against the clause, 165.

The bill having gone through committee, the report was ordered to be brought up on Monday.

Monday, May 9.

#### ELECTION COMPROMISES.

The adjourned debate was resumed by Major BERESFORD who declared his anxiety for the appointment of a committee of inquiry, and that its inquiry should be a searching one. He would willingly answer to such an authority, although he declined doing so to the member for Bath.

Mr WYNN and Sir R. INGLIS opposed the motion.

Mr WARD thought the circumstances called for a searching investigation. Sir G. Larpent's withdrawal, after two contests, and immediately upon the decision of a committee in his favour, was a very suspicious circumstance. So was the sudden success of the sitting members at Harwich, against candidates who the day before appeared to be perfectly safe.

Lord PALMERSTON expressed his surprise at the silence of ministers on the question; and declared that he could not support the motion. If it had been a general inquiry into the extent of bribery at the last election, he would have voted for it; but this was limited to the ground of particular compromises which were not illegal, nor yet breaches of privilege.

He was of opinion that it was not against the statute law, because he saw a provision in the election law allowing petitioners to retire from the prosecution of their petitions; and that was a just provision, because the parties were required to bear all the expense of the trial; it would be an act of manifest injustice if those who were prosecuting their claim at their own expense had not the power of withdrawing when they saw fit. Then, was it a violation, or a breach of the privileges of the house? As at present advised, he did not think it was. If hon. members thought the system was against the privileges of the house, then it was a case of sufficient importance to merit a discussion of itself. Let the question be argued, and let the house determine, assuming that the charges of the hon. and learned gentleman were literally true, let it be argued and determined whether such transactions were or were not breaches of the privileges of the house. Suppose the case that A. B. was returned, and that C. D. petitioned against the return, and made allegations of bribery; A. B., when he came to have his case examined into by counsel, might be told, that although he was himself guiltless, his agents or friends had done acts, which if substantiated before a committee, must affect his seat. Under such circumstances the party would wish to avoid the expense of an inquiry. On the other hand, the other party might have great hopes of success, but yet might be very anxious to come to a compromise—such a compromise as was constantly entered into in our courts of justice, and everywhere where merely private rights were concerned, and another election took place agreeably to the understanding. In all that he saw nothing that was inconsistent with the privileges of the house.

If then there was no breach either of privilege or of statute law, there could be only one other reason for the proceeding—namely, to lay the ground of some new law for the repression of bribery; but when the practice was already so notorious, he saw no occasion for further inquiries. He was ready to concur in a strong measure for putting down this wholesale corruption. Common report was the ground alleged for the proposed proceeding; but common report went much further than to these particular cases: it extended to a very large proportion of all the late contests.

He spoke it with shame and grief, but he believed that at the late general election bribery and corruption existed to an extent greater than had ever before been heard of [cheers]. And he did not wonder at it, for both parties were contending for a great prize—the government of the country. That prize had been won, but that both parties had attacked and defended by improper means did not admit of a doubt.

This state of things was owing to the mutilation by the other House of Lord John Russell's bill; but, ere the close of the present session, some such measure must pass the legislature. Either the proposed inquiry should be as extensive as the evil, or it should not take place at all. The only other remedy suggested was the ballot, but that would only introduce worse evils of another kind. If anything could ever induce him to support the ballot, it would be a refusal on the part of ministers to concur in an effectual law against bribery.

Sir R. PEEL was not aware that it was expected he should indicate the course he meant to pursue, as though it were a party debate. As to these particular charges, he did not think them definite enough to warrant the proposed inquiry. The practice of these compromises, he believed, had long existed; and certainly the general impression had always been, that election petitions were mere proceedings for the possession of the seats, and involved no obligation to prosecute for the public.

The impression on the minds of members on both sides of the house with respect to election petitions was, that in presenting them they contracted no other obligation than either to seek or defend individual rights. That had been the uniform impression on the minds of all, both under the Grenville act and the late act of parliament; and, whatever course he might take in the matter under discussion, he could not divest himself of the belief that compromises had long existed, and had not been thought to involve the parties engaged in them in any criminal practices. At the same time, he thought that the nature of the compromise must in a very great measure depend upon the particular circumstances and character of the transaction. The House must bear in mind that a member might not be possessed of great pecuniary means; he might find that the defence of his seat might involve him in ruin, or injure the prospects of his family; that there was no subscription; and he could not defend himself at the public expense; where, in such a case, would be the criminality of entering into a compromise? Many compromises had been entered into that involved no charge of criminality; but, on the other hand, some compromises had taken place which were of a totally different character.

The member for Bath ought to place on record the distinct nature of the charges he preferred, and if they showed on the face of them a gross breach of privilege, he thought it would be for the honour of the House not to leave the matter uninvestigated, but refer it to a committee, armed with the ordinary constitutional powers.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL was not of opinion that a sitting member or a petitioner should be obliged, when the question of the title to the seat was settled, to spend £3,000 or £4,000 for the purpose of punishing corruption. These compromises had been common; and the proper course would be to provide some mode of investigating such cases at the public expense. He called on Sir R. Peel to introduce a bill like that which the Lords had rejected in 1841; such a bill, becoming thus a ministerial measure, would undoubtedly pass. The present charges were too vague. If they could be put upon the journals in a specific form, he agreed with Sir R. Peel that a committee ought to be appointed, but he believed the greatest benefit to be derived from these transactions would be that they should lead to some legislative remedy.

Lord STANLEY contended that the practice of compromising was no novelty, and had never been considered a breach of privilege. He thought the committee moved for would do harm, except it had some specific question to deal with and be confined to.

With regard to the general charge of bribery, no man deplored more deeply, or was prepared to censure more strongly, the bribery which prevailed in the large towns, and in the small towns also, and which he was afraid was becoming more general; and there was no member of that house who was prepared to go further in applying an effectual remedy for it, if it could be applied. But for that purpose it was quite clear that an act of Parliament, and not an appointment of a committee, was requisite. He thought great caution ought to be taken, lest in investigating bribery alleged to have been committed at an election, they should mix up two subjects quite distinct—the prosecution of individual rights and the vindication of the public propriety.

After several other members had spoken, Mr ROEBUCK replied, he vindicated his motion from the imputation of vagueness, and himself from the charge of asperity. He cited from the journals the case of Mr SHEPHERD. He was, however, prepared to proceed in any form which would effect the substantial object.

The noble lord (Palmerston) said that his charge was too narrow—that it ought to sweep the whole wide range of this marvellous corruption. Hon. members on the other side of the house said, that a committee so appointed by his motion would have a roving commission. There was no pleasing them. He was in the unfortunate position of one man whipping another—hit them where he would he could not please them. He wanted to steer clear of both objections. He did not want a roving commission, for he named places. He did not want to scatter charges amongst the multitude, for he named charges.

In addition to the committee he must have a bill of indemnity.

For that bill of indemnity he should move in that house. They could not stir a step



without it. Any lawyer knew how to draw that bill. He would, if necessary, propose it to-morrow; it could be passed in three days, and be sent up to the Lords, and become law in a week. But without these powers they could do nothing; they gave him an instrument which he could not use. He thought he knew something of the House, and he was not going to work this committee to his own shame. He knew that the whole world was looking on at the whole of these proceedings, and he was not frightened out of his task; and that being so, he said it was clearly understood that such were the intentions of the House (if it be the desire of the House to probe to the bottom this festering wound) to put that probe into his hands, and to the bottom of its nastiness would he drive it.

He then withdrew his former motion, and substituted in its place the following:—

"That the House having been informed by an hon. member, that he has heard and believes that in the cases of the election petitions presented to the House from Harwich, Nottingham, Reading, Lewes, and Falmouth, certain corrupt compromises had been entered into for the purpose of avoiding investigation of the bribery alleged to have been practised at the elections for the said towns, a select committee be appointed to inquire whether such compromises had been entered into, and whether such bribery had taken place in the aforesaid towns!"

Mr NEELD, who had been a member of the Lewes committee, urged the omission of Lewes. Mr LABOUCHERE opposed that omission, and rejoiced that the proposal was now in a form wherein he could support it. Mr MURPHY thought, that after Mr H. Fitzroy's declaration on the former evening, it would be unjust to him to exclude Lewes.

Sir J. WALSH wished, that since Mr Roebuck's main ground as to these several cases was current report, he would include another case also to which similar reports applied—that of Bridport. Mr C. BULLER, for Mr Warburton's sake, supported the suggestion.

Sir R. PEEL reminded the House that Bridport had not been included in the mover's notice. Indeed, he wished a little more time had been taken for the wording of the whole motion.

After a few words from Mr C. WOOD and Sir R. INGLIS, the motion was then agreed to without a division.

#### THE INCOME TAX.

The House then proceeded to the report of the Income-tax bill, when Mr GOULBURN brought up a clause to relieve householders from the payment of this tax as a condition of their parliamentary registration. This was passed unanimously.

Mr B. WOOD proposed a clause for enabling a party assessable under more schedules than one to set off losses sustained under one or more of them against profits made under other or others of them, so that the payment should be only on the balance of total income.

Mr GOULBURN opposed the change, as militating against the general principle and practical efficacy of the bill. Such a provision had been included under the original Income-tax act; but upon experience it had been abandoned in 1803, as leading to great evasion and general complaint.

After some discussion the House divided, when there appeared—  
for the clause, 66; against it, 110.

Mr GILL proposed a series of clauses, having for their object to treat all incomes not derived from lands or funds according to the value of them if estimated in capital, and to charge the property tax only on the income which such capital would produce were it invested at 5 per cent.

Mr GOULBURN opposed the clause, as at variance with the whole principle of the bill, which professed to tax income, and not mere capital.

The clause was supported by Mr HUME and Mr HOWARD, after which the House divided, and the clause was rejected by a majority of 147.

Mr GOULBURN introduced some words, giving the exemptions enjoyed by cathedrals, colleges, &c., to all places used solely for divine worship; which addition was adopted.

Sir R. INGLIS again pressed on the consideration of government his suggestion for exempting incomes above 150*l.* a year from the percentage on the first 150*l.* of their amount. Sir R. PEEL undertook to give, on the third reading, an explanation of the reasons which precluded the adoption of that suggestion.

Various verbal amendments were made, and the report being gone through, the third reading was appointed for Friday, subject to further postponement in case the tariff should not then have made sufficient progress.

#### HOUSE OF LORDS.

On Friday evening, the Bishop of NORWICH presented several petitions, complaining of the employment of very young children of both sexes in the most severe drudgery of the collieries. Lord FITZWILLIAM deprecated any interference on the part of the legislature with the right of the subject to choose his own means of subsistence, and urged the necessity, if restrictions were imposed in the case of the collieries, of extending the inquiry into every branch of labour in which children were employed. The Marquis of LONDONDERRY declared that in the districts of the Tyne and Wear such hardships as those described in the petitions presented were wholly unknown. The Marquis of NORMANBY explained that the inquiry had been intended to include the case of children employed in factories of every description; and Lord FITZWILLIAM argued that it should also extend to those employed in agriculture, who were, he contended, from the low wages they obtained, in a worse position than the better fed colliers.

The subject of the "corrupt, illegal, and unconstitutional practices" resorted to in the election of members of the House of Commons, was introduced by Lord BROUGHAM, who, in pursuance of his pledge given in the previous session of parliament, introduced a measure with a view to the correction of such practices. He laid his bill upon the table, preparatory to the appointment of a committee; and upon the second reading of the bill he would state its nature more particularly. The bill proposes the appointment of a committee of either house of parliament to obtain evidence, by giving effectual protection to witnesses examined before them, and to persons implicated by evidence given.

The Queen held a levee at St. James's Palace on Wednesday afternoon, which was numerously attended.

Her Majesty, Prince Albert, and the royal children and suite left Buckingham Palace on Friday, for Claremont, and returned to town yesterday.

It is stated that the Queen has appointed the Dowager Lady Lytton to the post of governess to the Princess Royal. Her ladyship is a daughter of the late Earl Spencer, and mother of the present Baron Lytton.

#### POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, May 11.

In the House of Commons last night Mr P. HOWARD moved for a new writ for the borough of Nottingham; but being opposed by Mr ROEBUCK, Mr WARD, and Sir R. PEEL, who thought that, as the House had determined on an inquiry, it would be inconsistent to issue the writ, at least immediately, he withdrew the motion.

Mr REDDINGTON moved for leave to bring in a bill to disfranchise the borough of Sudbury, which was seconded by Sir JAMES GRAHAM, and agreed to.

Sir R. PEEL then rose to make his statement on the tariff; and after going through the details, in which there is very little alteration, the House went into committee *pro forma*, and Sir ROBERT PEEL said he would postpone the third reading of the Income Tax bill till after the Whitsun recess, and go on with the tariff on Friday. We shall give an analysis of the debate in our next.

We have just received intelligence that a large public meeting was held yesterday, in the Market place, Nottingham, at which a resolution was *unanimously* carried to invite Mr Sturge to become a candidate for that borough.

Intelligence has been received from Hamburg of an immense conflagration which took place on Thursday morning last, at one o'clock, in that city. The district in which the fire broke out consists entirely of wood tenements, chiefly of five and six stories high, and covering an area of ground of about thirty to forty acres. The whole of the buildings on this large space have been totally consumed, to the number of (to our informant's best supposition) more than 1,000. The fire originated in the street known by the name of the Stein Twite, in the warehouse of a Jew, named Cohen, a cigar manufacturer, and who, upon good grounds, has been taken up on suspicion as the incendiary. The principal houses and hotels, among which were the Exchange, Strait's Hotel, St. Peter's Church, the Post-office, the Bank, Spinnhauss's Hotel, and several others, with their costly property, have not a wreck left. The whole presents a mass of ruins, fallen into the dykes which intersected the streets. Upwards of 100 lives have fallen a prey.

An appalling accident happened on Sunday last, on the Versailles railway, which occasioned more than fifty deaths, and three times that number to be seriously wounded. There were seventeen or eighteen carriages in the train, with two engines before and one behind. When between Bellevue and Mendon, the axle-tree of the first engine broke, and the second ran over it, killing the stoker, and spilling the fire on the ground. Six or seven carriages were broken to pieces, and several more, running over the live fire, burst into flames; and the doors of the carriages being, as usual, fastened, the passengers of three of them were burned to cinders. Forty-seven bodies have been found, and three of the wounded have since died.

#### THE COMPLETE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.

Last night, a meeting of the council was held in the Public office, Birmingham, for the purpose of communicating to the members the proceedings of the body up to the present time. The meeting was highly interesting. At half-past 7 o'clock,

JOSEPH STURGE, Esq., president of the association, took the chair, and called upon the secretary to read the minutes of the proceedings.

Mr MORGAN then read the minutes, from which it appeared that the most satisfactory results had attended the labours of the Provisional council.

Mr STURGE then said, it was proposed in future to have a meeting of the council at least once a month, for the confirmation of the minutes of the Executive committee, which should be open to the attendance of all the members of the Union. This was the first they had appointed; and in addition to the confirmation of the minutes, and the resolutions which the council had to consider, they wished to give the members of the union every information that would be interesting to them; and should any one present, after the proceedings and statements of the council had been gone through, wish further particulars upon any point than had been given, he hoped he would ask a question; but he believed it would be needful, for the sake of good order and the dispatch of business, that any statement beyond a simple query, should be confined to the members of the council. He did consider it, not only a cheering indication that their union would spread far and wide, but take deep root, when, in the midst of his multifarious engagements, Daniel O'Connell expressed not only his readiness, but, as would be seen by the following extract of a letter, which he had received from him, his desire, to become a member of the council of the union. "Do you know that I think I may be of use as a member of your council. At all events I am determined to be a member of the union itself, of which I highly approve: but it must be a working, active union." Though Daniel O'Connell, in addition to his duties of member of parliament, held the office of Lord Mayor of Dublin, yet he believed he (the chairman) was correct in stating that he was at present in Dublin, promoting an organisation of the millions of his countrymen, to act in unison and co-operation with this society. He knew there were those of their chartist friends who considered that in times that are over and gone, they had some reason to be dissatisfied with Daniel O'Connell's conduct, with regard to their cause; but he hoped that all such would unite in the sentiment of one of the most anxious to maintain the people's charter in all its integrity, and who had formerly expressed such a sentiment to him. When the chairman told him he was convinced that Daniel O'Connell heartily and sincerely wished to serve this cause—"Then," said he, "I am ready to forget and forgive all the past." He (the chairman) himself hailed this union with the millions of Ireland, under the peaceful guidance of Daniel O'Connell, with sincere congratulation (applause).

Mr T. STEELE begged to say one word. He could most unequivocally assure them that Mr O'Connell never abandoned the principles of chartism. He merely abandoned that misnamed chartism, which had had been found most injurious to the great cause of liberty.



The CHAIRMAN then said—The subject of appointing lecturers, and the best means of establishing organs of communication through the country by means of the press, was under the attentive consideration of the council, and at the next meeting he hoped they should be able to report, that effectual steps had been taken in the promotion of both. In respect to the latter, in London, not only the *Nonconformist*, but the *British Statesman* and the *National Association Gazette* had shown every facility to giving the fullest report of their proceedings; and the *Birmingham Journal* readily inserted information. In other parts of the country a large number of the papers are already favourable to our cause; but, under the controul of the two leading political factions, the daily press of London were, of course, extremely hostile to this movement; and some of them either had shamefully misstated or suppressed even proceedings in parliament. This was the case with regard to a petition from the council to the House of Lords, presented by Lord Brougham the other day, which we shall give in our next.

This was affirmed by some of the papers as the same as the national petition, and others stated it as containing only four out of the six points to which it alluded. In a letter he had received from Lord Brougham, he says—

"Grafton street, May 5, 1842.

"DEAR J. S.—In presenting the Union petition, I stated the particulars of the Birmingham meeting, and expressed my hope that those who could not agree in its prayer, and who differed even more widely than I did from the opinions put forth would at least receive it with a respect due to the vast numbers of worthy and useful men holding the same opinions with the petitioners.

"I am quite certain that in expressing my deep sense of the merits of the working classes both in parliament, and at the late meeting on the Birkbeck testimonial, I rather understated than exaggerated them. No one who has so long known the working classes, can entertain a doubt of their honest and peaceable disposition. Truly it is to them that the prosperity of the country is mainly owing—and unhappily, when evil times come, the pressure must always fall heaviest upon them; yet we see them generally submitting to their hard lot with a patience and even cheerfulness which cannot be sufficiently admired. Surely nothing can give them a greater claim to our confidence; and though men may differ as to the steps by which, and the time at which, those classes should be admitted within the pale of the constitution, yet all must agree in looking forward for this consummation, as the object which reformers should keep steadily in view.

"Believe me, truly yours,  
"H. BROUGHAM."

The next matter he (the Chairman) had to allude to, though it related principally to himself, yet it had also an intimate bearing upon the state of public opinion with regard to complete suffrage. They had perhaps heard of the sale and purchase of the constituency of Nottingham, between the whigs and tories, which was exposed, with others of a similar nature, in the House of Commons last week, and in connexion with which disgraceful transaction one of the members of parliament for that borough had resigned. On Saturday last two gentlemen came from there to ask him to allow his name to be put in nomination, and to which he had given the following reply:

"Birmingham, 5 mo. 7, 1842.

"EST EMED FRIENDS—I have given the subject of our conversation this morning, in reference to the representation of Nottingham, the best consideration I am able. I am more and more convinced it is utterly hopeless to expect any substantial benefit from a House of Commons, a majority of whose members have obtained their seats by means which honest men could not resort to, even were I not also convinced of my great incompetence for the position in which you wish to place me. Yet, after consulting with a number of my friends, we unite in the judgment that, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, I ought not to refuse to comply with a requisition of a large number of electors, who are desirous of thus showing their adherence to the great principle with which I am identified, 'that of the extension of the elective franchise to every man 21 years of age, who is not deprived of his rights of citizenship in consequence of the verdict of a jury of his countrymen.' I therefore beg respectfully to state that should such a requisition be forwarded to me, I will accept of the nomination on the following conditions:—

"That no money be spent, or any improper influence used, to bias a single vote in my favour; and that in the event of my return to parliament, if I should find from experience that I could not conscientiously retain my seat, or I could be of more service to my country by resigning it, I should be at liberty to do so.

"I am, very respectfully,  
"JOSEPH STURGE."

"To Joseph Frearson and Thomas Beggs, Nottingham."

This morning he had received the following—

"Nottingham, May 10th, 1842.

"We are going on gloriously, so much so that we have called a public meeting in the Market place to-morrow, from which the invitation (to you), is to proceed; the popular voice is with us."

Now though he looked entirely to the people for the working out of political reform, and had no hope from the House of Commons, even if fifty far better advocates of the people's rights than he was, could displace the most corrupt who at present occupied seats in that house, yet he did think it very encouraging that a large part of the constituency of Nottingham were ready to record their unsolicited, and uninfluenced votes in favour of a stranger, holding the principles of the Complete Suffrage union.

The SECRETARY said there were a great number of friends throughout the country who were most anxious to serve the cause, and they were disposed to establish societies for that purpose. Now there were two statutes which rendered it difficult to establish societies in connection with the main body, and the council were very anxious to ascertain how far they were at present acting strictly legal, and he wrote the following letter to Mr. O'Connell:—

"Birmingham, 5th May, 1842.

"SIR—We have been requested by the council of the National Complete Suffrage Union to consider and report upon the laws relating to political societies, and to make such practical suggestions as will enable the Union and other societies which may be formed for similar purposes, to avoid any infringement of the laws in working out the great object.

"We are happy to know that you have kindly offered the benefit of your advice to the council, who have desired us, in availing themselves of your kindness, to beg the favour of your opinion on the following points:—

"1st, Is the Union, as at present constituted, a strictly legal body? are its rules in every respect free from objection, and if not, what alteration would you suggest to make them so?

"2nd, In your judgment can the objects be fully and effectually carried out under the existing rules and constitution, without infringing the law; seeing that correspondence and a system of combined action in some shape or form will be absolutely necessary?

"3rd, Be pleased to define as far as possible the limits prescribed by the acts of 39 Geo. III., c. 79, and 57 Geo. III., c. 19, and state what acts (which may appear questionable), are not rendered illegal by these statutes. The council will be particularly obliged by your entering very fully into this question.

"4th, We have further to request the favour of your advice generally, and that you will offer such practical directions as will enable the council of this union, and of other similar societies fully and effectually to carry on their objects, and at the same time to steer clear of any infraction of the law either common or statute.

We beg to enclose No. 1, a copy of the constitution. No. 2, copy of the proceedings at the conference when the union was formed. No. 3, a circular convening that conference, showing the mode of its election. We should be obliged by your referring to

the statutes already named, and we further beg the favour of your pointing out any other statutes, or any having reference to Ireland, or to the city of Westminster, or to any other locality which may seem to you important.

"You will forgive the anxiety with which we look for your speedy reply on account of the momentous interests involved in the union, and its efficient working.

"Believe us to be, Sir, yours most faithfully,

"D. T. ROWLINSON.

"WILLIAM MORGAN."

In answer to this he had received a letter from which the following are extracts,—

To D. T. Rowlinson and William Morgan, Esqrs.

London, 6th May, 1842.

SIRS—Your letter dated yesterday, 5th inst., has given me the greatest satisfaction. I am proud of the confidence you repose in me, and most cheerfully tender my best assistance in keeping your political bark within the limits of the law. I have before me the constitution of the Complete Suffrage Union, as set forth in the printed minutes of the late conference in Birmingham, pp. 21—24, and am thus enabled to reply directly to your first question.

To the first question my reply is, that the Union, as at present constituted, is strictly a legal body, and that its constitution is free from any legal objection.

To the second, in my judgment the objects of the Union can be fully and effectually carried out under the existing rules and constitution, without infringing the law. Care must be taken not to correspond with any other society or public body and not to form separate and distinct branches—you can correspond in the name of the Union, and by its authority, with as many individuals to an unlimited amount as you please. It is with societies, clubs, or associations, that correspondence is forbidden. I am ready to attend the next meeting of the Council, after my return from Ireland, to make practical arrangements for promoting the patriotic objects of the Union without infringing the law in any respect. I will then meet all the purposes suggested in the third question—I will lay before the Council in writing the precise limits of the rights of associations for political purposes prescribed by the 39 and 57 George III. I should even now enter more fully upon these topics but that my time is occupied this day, as I must leave to-night for Dublin. I will thence send a further reply to your queries.

I have the honor to be—your very obedient servant,

DANIEL O'CONNELL.

Mr COLLINS rose and said he had to propose a resolution of considerable importance. He was well aware that after what had taken place in the house of Commons, many of their friends thought it would be much better not to apply again to that House this session. He thought they had now arrived at a period when they ought incessantly to work both by night and by day. He felt confident that so sound were their principles, that the oftener they were brought before the public the better, and he begged leave to move the following resolutions:—

"That the council present their most hearty and respectful thanks to Mr S. Crawford, M.P., for the zeal and ability with which he introduced the late motion, in favour of complete suffrage, into the house of Commons, and also to the 68 members who supported him on that occasion. Encouraged by the reception of that motion, this council respectfully request Mr Crawford to take an early opportunity, before the end of this session, of moving for leave to bring in a bill to provide for a full, fair, and free representation of the people."

The resolution was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Rev. T. SWAN then rose, and moved, that Mr Sturge leave the chair, and that the same be taken by Mr Perry, the vice president.

Mr PERRY took his seat—upon which the rev. gentleman in the most complimentary terms proposed the following address to the electors of Nottingham, which was carried with acclamation:—

To the Independent Electors of Nottingham.

"We rejoice to learn that you have at length determined to vindicate those principles of purity of election the disregard of which has proved the fertile source of so large a portion of our country's misery. That disgraceful compromise which has been attempted to be practised upon you has, we trust, effectively roused your just indignation against the system by which you have been so long enchained. May you never slumber in fetters again.

"We do not address ourselves to any individual among you who may either be so base as to give a bribe, or so degraded as to take one, and then glory in his shame—these classes can only be recovered from their degradation by being surrounded with the atmosphere of a virtuous public sentiment—but we address ourselves to all who honestly seek to 'purge out the old leaven,' and to rescue their town from the odium that at present attaches to it in the eye of their country. Earnestly do we deprecate these practices which have first debased your public morals, then poisoned the fountain of legislation, and now, in their 'last supremacy of ill,' reduced you to the condition of mere slaves—the subjects of bondage, barter, and sale. And with the same earnestness do we rejoice in your determination to break through the toils which have been insidiously woven around you.

"Freemen of Nottingham!—prove your title. Doubtless you will be plied, as heretofore, with the old instruments of tyranny—with gold and threats, and with the cup that is intended to make you slaves indeed—but remember that now, for the first time in an election contest, the rights, liberties, and happiness of your own starving fellow-countrymen, fellow-townsmen, fellow-workmen, are at stake; and can it be possible that you should so vote as to give your denial to their just claims to be, with yourselves, freemen for self-governed men?

"That you have determined to nominate our highly esteemed president as a candidate for the representation of your borough is to us at once a source of the highest satisfaction, and a test of the sincerity of your professions. We consider that, in sending Mr Sturge to represent your great and important town in the British parliament, you would acquire for yourselves immortal honour; for his various private and public virtues have endeared him to every heart, and made him the property of the world; nor dare the most malignant venture to affix a stain on his character.

"For no trifling consideration could we consent that he should be withdrawn from those active and laborious services in which, as the head of the movement in favour of complete suffrage, he is now engaged. But in the confident hope that in his person you will bear our great principles triumphantly into parliament, we cheerfully resign him into your hands.

"Signed by order of the General Council of the Complete Suffrage Union,  
"JAMES C. PERRY, Vice-president.

"Birmingham, May 10th, 1842."

D. O'Connell, Esq. was then proposed a member of the council by Mr Arkwright. The Rev. Mr Swan seconded the resolution, and in doing so passed a high eulogium upon Mr O'Connell. The motion was carried with great applause, after which the meeting separated.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE, THIS DAY.

The supply of English wheat is very small, of foreign large. No business of any moment has been transacted, and no alteration has taken place since Monday.



## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"On-Looker." We beg to return thanks, and as we do not receive the paper in question, should be obliged by a sight of it whenever he thinks that the good of the public may thereby be promoted.

"James Humphrys" received.

To our correspondent at Nottingham we return sincere thanks.

"J. O." Next week.

A correspondent from Leeds has too long remained unanswered. We can only plead pressing engagements as our excuse. We cannot furnish him with the copies of the *Nonconformist* which he requires. We will therefore return the stamps which he has forwarded inclosed in a private letter as soon as possible.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.

For 8 lines ....5s. 0d.	For 16 lines...7 0	For 24 lines...9 0
10.....5 6	18.....7 6	26.....9 6
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\*\* Advertisements from the country should be accompanied by a post office order, or reference for payment in London.

**The Nonconformist.**

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1842.

## SUMMARY.

SINCE our last the details of the news from the East, the general character of which was given in our postscript, have been received. The latest intelligence is to the 14th February from Macao. The cities and ports of Yuyao, Tsikee, and Funghwa, situate respectively 40, 20, and 30 miles from Ningpo, have been taken, and are now occupied by British troops. The common opinion appears to be, that on the arrival of the expected reinforcements from India and England, a demonstration would be made against Pekin, the imperial city. Meanwhile, owing to the paralysis of the powers of government, opium is selling freely along the coast, at profits so enormous as will enable the company to defray at least one-half of the expenses of the expedition to China. From India intelligence is of a less gloomy character than by the last mail. General Sir Robert Sale, up to the fourth of last month, was safe in Jellalabad; and having secured provisions for himself and his troops, was determined to resist to the last. Candahar and Khelat y Ghilzie were deemed secure, and tranquillity prevails in the province of Scinde. We have sacrificed thirteen thousand lives for no other purpose than to place upon the throne a man whom the Affghans have rejected with disgust, and who, when his object has been attained, by our instrumentality, has turned his success to account in the expulsion from the country of his own allies. Our officious interference with the rights of others, owing to the fatal policy of the whigs, has been visited with ample retribution on our heads. We are now called upon to pay for these freaks of party, and have no consolation for the awful sacrifice of life which they have occasioned but an income tax and disgrace.

In the House of Commons, business has proceeded at a somewhat tardy pace, but we cannot say that its time has been occupied to no important purpose. On Wednesday last the second reading of the Church Patronage (Scotland) bill was postponed for six weeks, at the request of Sir James Graham, who intimated that government were in negotiation with the parties interested, and that sanguine hopes were entertained that a measure might be introduced which would uphold the civil rights of the patron, meet the demands of the people, and maintain the authority of the spiritual courts. Mr Fox Maule opposed the postponement of Mr Campbell's measure, on the ground that the government plan would be nothing more than a reproduction of that concocted by Lord Aberdeen, for which Mr Fox Maule received a severe castigation from the hands of Sir Robert Peel. The bill was postponed by a majority of 83. On Thursday evening the member for Gateshead, Mr Hutt, brought forward a motion, serving as a peg upon which to hang an indictment against the present Home Secretary, for his wholesale appointment of tory municipal magistrates. Thereupon ensued a debate, in which the leading whigs and conservatives took part, remarkable for nothing but violent recriminations. *Tu quoque* arguments were in great request. Each party railed against the other in good set terms, from which the evident conclusion might be gathered up, that the balance of political factions rather than the interest of the people is the paramount object of our rulers in the present day. The magisterial bench is crowded with partisans, and justice, so called, is henceforth to be administered to the people by magistrates whose only virtue and fitness for office consists in the activity of their political propensities.

On Friday evening the member for Bath rose pursuant to notice, to put certain questions to certain honourable members touching compromises, said to have been made with a view to prevent the exposure of corrupt proceedings practised at the last general election, and to move for a committee of inquiry to determine whether such compromises did not involve a gross breach of the privileges of the House. Mr Roebuck accomplished the bold and arduous task he had undertaken in a manner which entitles him to the thanks of the country. Whatever he may have lost thereby of conventional standing, he has more than gained in real power. The course he adopted required more than ordinary nerve, and happily, in nerve the member for Bath was by no means deficient. His dignified courtesy of manner, his calm self-possession, his unalterable decision of purpose, his admirable tact, must have extorted admiration from, whilst they wrung the consciences of, all the members of the House. A heavier blow has not been inflicted

upon party since the passing of the Reform bill. With unshrinking courage the honourable gentleman pulled off the bandage by which the festering and putrifying sore of our body politic has long been concealed, and exposed the loathsome wound to public view. From our inmost hearts we are compelled to honour the man, who had the moral courage to dare, and the high ability to accomplish, this deed. Heretofore we have had occasion to speak of Mr Roebuck's conduct in no laudatory terms; but we are now constrained to acknowledge, that whatever his past mistakes may have been, he has more than redeemed his character, and single handed, he has given an impulse to the popular cause, such as no combination of parties has lately effected. His honesty has reaped its reward. Political corruption slunk out of his presence, conscious of its own hideous deformity; and the committee for which he moved, after a renewal of the debate on Monday evening, was finally accorded to him without a division.

The Income Tax bill has reached its last stage, the report having been brought up on Monday night, and the third reading appointed for Friday, subject, however, to further postponement in case the tariff should not then have made sufficient progress. Two or three amendments were proposed, but were rejected by large majorities. The only important modification we have how to notice was the introduction of some words by the Chancellor of the Exchequer giving the exemptions enjoyed by cathedrals, churches, and chapels, to all places used solely for Divine worship. In the House of Lords nothing important has been done, saving the introduction by Lord Brougham of a bill to correct the corrupt, illegal, and unconstitutional practices resorted to in the election of members of the House of Commons. The noble lord laid his bill upon the table preparatory to the appointment of a committee, and intimated that upon the second reading of it, he would state its nature more particularly. A duplicate of the debate on Mr. Hutt's motion in the lower house may also be found amongst the records of the week's proceedings in the House of Peers.

A requisition most respectably signed by several of the liberal electors of Nottingham, has we believe been forwarded to Mr. Sturge, who in all probability will consent to be put in nomination. The new writ has not yet been issued, but will we suppose, be obtained within a day or two. All parties are looking forward, in anxious expectation, to the result of a contest so pregnant with the future well being of the people. We have heard that Mr Feargus O'Connor has written to the chartists of Nottingham, urging their energetic support of the Chairman of the "National Complete Suffrage association." On whichever side victory may declare itself, the great cause, which Mr Sturge has so much at heart, cannot but be advanced. Within the last two months, it has moved forward at railroad pace. Substantially it is taken up by all the liberal organs, but such as are treble-dyed in aristocratic whiggism. Sorry we are to observe the *Norwich Mercury* lending itself to the assertion of dogmas against complete suffrage, picked up from the common road, and employed without consideration and without force. We shall venture to hope better things both of it and the *Scotsman*. The savage outbreak of the *Yorkshireman*, precludes our entertaining, with regard to him, the same favourable expectation. "What is bred in the bone, cannot come out of the flesh;" and a writer, who upon the smallest provocation, throws himself at once into the attitude of a bully, and makes up for the force of his thoughts by the outrageous vehemence of his language, is ill prepared to act on greater occasions, upon the principle "Do unto others as you would that others should do unto you."

## THE PROPER EXTENT OF ORGANIC REFORM.

"THIS country," said Lord John Russell, "cannot afford a political revolution every ten years." We agree with him. No man can have failed to observe, that throughout the period during which a nation is casting the skin of old institutions, its functions are necessarily more or less deranged. Its energies are diverted from their accustomed channels, all being required to meet the present emergency. The healthy play of every-day business is for a time suspended. Trade languishes; commerce droops; manufactures are at a stand still. Uncertainty overhangs all our prospects. All the ordinary standards of value become inapplicable. The public mind gets feverish and restless. Social order is exposed to peril. Headstrong passion is tempted to push judgment from its proper seat, and to seize the reins which it is incompetent to hold with steady hand. No! we cannot afford a political revolution every ten years.

When, therefore, organic change becomes imperative; when reform, with all its attendant evils, is unavoidable; when the choice lies between the remodeling of our political institutions, or not distant convulsion, nothing can be more inexpedient than paltry measures. The mind of the country outgrows them in a few years, and a new era of agitation commences. First comes disappointment; close upon its heels follows popular discontent; new and larger demands are made; a fresh series of struggles ensues; classes are again arrayed against each other in bitter hostility, and all the evils of revolution have to be endured once more. It is, consequently, of the last importance to determine, that the next movement for organic reform, should, in as far at least as principles are concerned, be complete and final. If we are to have a change, let it be a change resting upon some broad, substantial, and intelligible basis. Let us settle the matter, as far as human wisdom can settle it, once for all, so that, be the fortunes of the country hereafter what they may—ever so disastrous, ever so ruinous, the remedy for them will no more be sought in a fuller or fairer representation of the people.

In truth, half measures in the present day would be not merely useless; they would be worse in their result than no measures at



all. The Reform bill, when first proposed to the House of Commons, was in advance of the political knowledge of the people. It was more than the country had demanded, and was therefore hailed as an inestimable boon. The great mass of our labouring population had scarcely a glimmer of light upon the subject of their own rights. Since that period they have busied themselves in discussing the first principles of government. No compromise can now satisfy them—no state chicanery can delude them. They have got beyond conventional maxims, and have conversed freely and familiarly with common sense and justice. With these allies they have shaken hands—have entered into solemn league and covenant. Putting aside, therefore, the future—leaving out of consideration the desirableness of adopting such a change as will leave nothing further to be sought for, we contend that only such a change is fitted to meet the present emergency. The people must have effectual representation, or no representation at all. Reform must go that length, or it may as well not move a single step in advance.

The necessity of substituting an efficient for a nominal representation of the people being admitted, it only remains to be considered what general principles such a representation, in the nature of things, includes. That every man of sound mind, of adult age, not indelibly stained with crime, not absolutely dependent on public resources, should have an equal and a protected vote for any other man whom he wishes to send to parliament, that other being placed in a position such as will render him fully responsible to his constituent—does not real representation require all this? The whole matter lies in a nutshell. If my voice is to find its way, through the medium of a representative, into the council of the nation, and to influence in its measure every legislative decision, why not my neighbour's voice? On what principle can we exclude from the franchise those who, at all events in their own estimation, have an equal right to it with ourselves? But, if we are thus to be represented—if, in the place of attending *en masse* for the purpose of discussing great public questions, we are to attend only by thoughtsmen and spokesmen of our own selection—by men to whom we are to delegate the trust of speaking and acting for us, and in our behalf, can anything be more reasonable than that we should be able to select from all classes without restriction, and make our selection, too, without fear or favor? Is it right that some hundred and twenty voters in a trumpery borough upon the eastern coast should have an eye and no in parliament equally weighty with the eye and the no of thirty thousand in the west riding of Yorkshire? Would that be fair and honest representation which placed a representative, upon his election, virtually without the range of responsibility to his constituents? Surely, when we speak of a representative system of government, and of the propriety of framing our institutions in accordance with it, we mean, if we mean anything, that the thought which exists in the mind of each individual subject should be able to flow quietly, without disturbance and without discoloration, into the great central reservoir of public opinion, to mingle there with the thoughts of all other individual subjects, and to be an element in the general result which is to flow back again to the people in streams and rivulets of legislation.

But if we do mean this, if we mean anything more than that one class of the empire should be disposed of and governed by another class, then undoubtedly we are bound to yield our assent to all the principles involved in the declaration of the "National Complete Suffrage Union." Whether it be expedient or not to link them one to another, thus making of them a consistent whole; whether or not complete suffrage would not have opened a door wide enough for the admission of all kindred principles, is not now the question. We are anxious that the middle classes should view the subject apart from all technicalities, and see it simply in its own unsophisticated light. They desire efficient representation as a means to good government, or they do not. If they do not, their objection lies against the representative principle, and not against this or that particular modification of it. If they do, let them ask themselves whether any single proposition affirmed by the Birmingham conference tends to render the machinery for securing good representation less complete than otherwise it would have been.

We are perfectly aware that a multitude of objections may be urged, and urged with some show of plausibility, against the breadth and width of that platform upon which the "National Complete Suffrage Union" rests. We know how easy it is to render great men ridiculous by pinning cloths to their tails; and how the wisest deeds may be condemned by viewing them in association with terms of mere contempt or infamy. It is comparatively a matter of facility to keep in abeyance, by the aid of a few paltry epithets and nicknames, even for many years, a cause of the mightiest import to the well-being of man—just as a lad scarcely in his teens may, with an unloaded pistol, thought however to be charged, compel a dozen grown men to keep their distance. But it becomes the thinking and the intelligent to reflect whether the temper of the times be such as to justify a resort to so unmanly a practice. Surely it is time that mere language were torn to shreds, and that the thing which that language means were looked at with steady gaze. Are we for ever to be pricked into indignation by "six points?" Is the "charter," the term under which is comprehended great principles of constitutional freedom, to put an end for ever to our liberty of thinking for ourselves? Must we be whipped out of our senses by mere words, and be scared (as children are by imaginary goblins) by the grim spectres which stalk up and down the world under the name of revolution, spoliation, anarchy, and confiscation?

Too long have we been misled by artfully-constructed language, employed simply with a view to raise the dust of our passions until the eyes of our judgment can see nothing clearly. A conventional cant has led us all astray. In most instances it will be found, after

serious examination of the matter, that it is not to things we object so much as to imaginations conjured up by the names of things. The serious position, however, of public affairs in this country demands of every man aspiring to patriotism the exercise of that courage that sets its face as a flint against the triumph of hearsay over reality. If we really wish for a fair, full, and free representation of the people, it behoves us to inquire as to the character of those arrangements necessary to give to our wish a practical embodiment; and if calm inquiry leads us to the adoption of the six points, let it be remembered that, as they existed before the charter was drawn up, so they are worthy of acceptance, albeit the misconduct of certain chartists has involved them in temporary disgrace.

#### THE NOTTINGHAM ELECTION.

EVENTS have conspired to bring on an engagement between the people and the united factions of the aristocracy, at a much earlier period than had been anticipated: and upon the electors of Nottingham devolves the signal honour of fighting the first battle for complete suffrage. By a singular coincidence, to Nottingham has been assigned a post of pre-eminence in several of our great national emergencies during the past half-century. There yet live, we suppose, a few venerable reformers, who can recall the time, when from the Maltercross, withering denunciations were levelled against what went by the familiar name of "Pitt's war," and when "good men and true," tore away the flimsy disguise which veiled the real purpose of the tory minister, and exposed to light the malignant scheme of carrying on hostilities abroad, with a view to crush the energies of rising democracy at home. In 1834, Nottingham read a severe lecture to the Grey administration upon their Irish Coercion bill, by opposing Mr. Eagle to Sir John Cam Hobhouse—and the King, emboldened on the one hand by this proof of the growing unpopularity of his government, and alarmed on the other by the Nottingham manifesto against the continued alliance of church and state, availed himself of the first subsequent opportunity, and turned out the whigs. To that step, in all probability, we owe the Municipal Corporations Reform bill. Lastly, at the close of the last parliament, when men of all parties were sick of whig faddling, the return of Mr. Walter hurried forward a ministerial attack upon the great monopolies of the kingdom—an attack which, proceeding from whatever motive, and followed as it was by defeat, has undoubtedly rung the knell of faction. Whilst we cannot proclaim our approval of this last movement, we choose to refer to it, as well as to other more honorable instances, to show that the history of Nottingham elections is woven into the same tissue with the history of this country, and that, by a strange conjuncture of events, the electors of that borough have more than once given a new aspect to the destinies of the empire.

Once more they are summoned to play a conspicuous part. By an arrangement, as clumsily contrived as it was disgraceful, at once both a blunder and a crime, the constitutional rights of Nottingham electors were dealt with by the leaders of both parties in the same manner as men deal in pigs; and were, "for a consideration," to be quietly shared between a whig-tory and a tory-whig. Opium-smuggling Larpent has resigned his purchased seat, and the rejected of Berkshire and of Nottingham is to walk over the course. Is he? Shall he not fight every inch of his way? Aye! hot indignation has already mounted up into the cheeks of the electors; and with all the emphasis which scorn can give to a sense of insult, they have flung defiance at both factions, resolved to wipe out the ignominy in which selfish and crafty politicians had intended to dye them to the core. They are already in the field for Mr. Sturge, the chairman of the "National Complete Suffrage Union," and from that field, if compelled to retire defeated, they will at all events retire with unscathed honour.

The gentleman whom they have resolved to put in nomination, is in all respects unexceptionable. His philanthropic exertions have been successfully put forth on behalf of the enfranchisement of our black colonial population. Quiet, unostentatious, honest from heel to crown—a man living for others rather than himself—whose fame is unsullied, whose character is without a flaw, whose benevolence runs in broad and deep channels of principle, and whose great and increasing influence is an influence which sincerity and goodness have gathered about him, rather than the eloquence of words or the accident of station—such a man it would redound to the reputation of any constituency to elect. The distinguished philanthropists of Europe would smile approval, and all the worth of America would hail the event with acclamation.

He is now the representative of a principle, the full magnitude of which it is impossible to overrate. He stands forth, the living embodiment, as it were, of complete suffrage. The present struggle involves the questions of peace against war, free-trade against monopoly, the people against aristocratic factions—in one word, principle against expediency. Are we to be bought and sold—to be taxed and trampled under foot at the will of parties, or are we to walk erect as freemen in all the consciousness of a dignified independence?

To this question of mighty import the electors of Nottingham are about to give a response—a response which will make all the hollows of our constitution ring. Nottingham is peculiarly pledged to the principle of complete suffrage. In 1812, when Lord Raneliffe overturned the tory power of that borough, the lever which he used was the lever of complete suffrage. That principle he then openly avowed, and by the aid of that principle he triumphed. From the moment of this first victory up to the date of the Reform bill, every election, and every great political meeting in Nottingham, stamped its approbation upon the same principle. It is only of late that Nottingham has been be-whigged; and not until real reform



was frittered away by a professedly reforming government, did the Tories dream of regaining their lost power. To the people of Nottingham, therefore, complete suffrage is no novelty. Again and again have they recognised its truth and justice; and if for a brief season, under misguiding and corrupt influence, they have deviated from the honourable purposes which once they cherished, they are under the stronger obligation to efface this reproach from their escutcheon, and to give to the world a proof of their sincere repentance by returning at once to their "first love."

What may be the issue of this momentous conflict, although we may anticipate it, is impossible to determine. Sinister whig influences may yet be at work to push forward another candidate of radical principles, that by a division of liberal strength the Tory may come in. Should any professed reformer dare to play this trick upon the Nottingham electors, let that man be instantly noted and marked as an ally of the conservatives, and an enemy to the people. There is no candidate for whom consistent dissenters could more honestly vote than for Joseph Sturge, in whom is united the enlarged views of the liberal politician, with the grave earnestness of the Christian. We intend to watch the conduct of these parties with a strict, but no unfriendly eye; and if we find proofs of a sneaking friendship between dishonest dissenters and Tory domination, those proofs we will uphold to the scorn and disgust of the world. But we fear it not. Every man we fully trust will be at his post. Every heart will beat with high enthusiasm. Political corruption will be shamed from the town by the frowns of the virtuous, the honest, and the good, of every shade of liberal opinions, and May, 1842, will be placed at the head of the proudest epochs in the political history of the borough of Nottingham.

#### THE NEWS FROM THE EAST.

THE intelligence brought by the last overland mail respecting the late disaster in Afghanistan, and the progress of hostilities in China, whilst it is less gloomy in national respects than that which last arrived in the country, is not a whit less distressing either to the sincere patriot or the true philanthropist. General Sale still holds his position at Jellalabad; and the attempts of the Afghan chiefs connived at by our own *protégé*, Shah Soojah, to drive us out of a province in which we never had any business whatever, have succeeded no further than was known to us by previous accounts. In China our troops are taking cities in the neighbourhood of Ningpo, and the talk now is of making a demonstration against Peking. Meanwhile we are informed upon the best authority that the Honourable East India Company is disposing of opium along the coast at such a high price of remuneration as will go far to defray the expenses of the contest. We should imagine that whig policy by this time is not only well understood but duly appreciated. We can compare it to nothing better than to the policy of Shah Soojah. It was at least in reference to eastern affairs, a perpetual striving after little selfish ends under the guise of great national advantage. The opium war with China was especially marked by this character. It was a war undertaken at the instance of influential smugglers to make the nation pay for the losses they had sustained in illegitimate enterprise. The true intent of it is becoming more transparent upon the arrival of each successive mail. At the national expense we are hewing a way amongst the dense population of China for the somewhat wider range of commercial cupidity; and almost without a struggle we are offering up on the altar of the narrowest expediency, not simply the best interests, but even the sacred honour of Great Britain. We are pleased to observe a great change of late in the tone of the public press, metropolitan and provincial, on this important subject; and we have great reason to hope that the first available opportunity will be embraced by government to put an end to proceedings which, whether disastrous or successful, equally expose us to disgrace. At all events we are not sorry that Sir G. de H. Larpernt has received his reward.

#### GENERAL POLITICS.

##### FOREIGN.

###### CHINA.

The latest intelligence is to the 14th of February from Macao. The Chinese government having garrisoned the cities and forts of Yuyao, Tsikee, and Funghwa, which are situate 40, 20, and 30 miles respectively from Ningpo, a force consisting of three steamers with about 700 men was despatched against them. They were soon occupied; the only opposition being an attempt at one place on the part of the Tartars to defend the town from without the walls; but, although they opened fire, the Tartars fled as soon as attacked; they were pursued, and lost about 150 men. The ammunition, arms, clothing, and other war stores, were destroyed, and the public granaries surrendered to the populace. The expedition returned to Ningpo on the 12th of January.

Hang-chow-foo, the chief city of the province of Che-Keang, was about to be occupied by the British troops during February. It had a garrison of 10,000 raw recruits. On the arrival of the expected reinforcements from India and England, the campaign would, it is said, begin by the capture of that important position at the south point of the Great Canal. Having issued a circular to her Britannic Majesty's subjects, announcing the capture of these three cities, Sir Henry Pottinger sailed for Hong-kong, where he arrived on the 1st of February. He immediately put a stop to the wretched system of seizing the Chinese commercial junks. Trade was carried on successfully with the southern ports, and opium was selling freely along the coast, for the powers of the government to control it appear now to be in a great measure paralysed. The sale of this article is such, and the prices so remunerating, that it has been proposed to station vessels in different places to serve as depôts for the cargoes. The profits are such as will

enable the company to defray at least one-half of the expenses of the expedition to China.

It is reported that Chusan, Amoy, and Hong Kong are to be free ports; buildings of various kinds are springing up fast in the last-named island.

###### AFGHANISTAN.

The *Bombay Times*, in its overland despatch, paints every thing in most gloomy colours. The disasters of Cabul and of the mountain passes appear attributable to disunited councils in the British camp, and to the total inefficiency of the military leaders. A private letter from Sir W. H. Macnaghten to his friend the Hon. Mr. Erskine, dated Cabul, the 9th of December, 1841, has been published by the *Friend of India*. It is as follows:—"We have now been besieged thirty-eight days by a contemptible enemy, whom the cowardice of our troops and certain other circumstances, which I will not mention, have emboldened to assume an attitude of superiority. Our provisions will be out in two or three days more, and the military authorities have strongly urged me to capitulate. This I will not do till the last moment. We have rumours that a force is coming to our assistance from Candahar, and I sincerely trust it may, for we have no energy or spirit among those here."

A letter, dated the 30th of January last, has arrived from Major Pottinger, from which it appears that "General Elphinstone, at the time after the murder of Sir W. H. Macnaghten when the evacuation of Cabul and its neighbourhood was under discussion in the British cantonments, was so ill from gout and a wound, that all active measures had devolved upon Brigadier Shelton; and that Major Pottinger proposed marching from the cantonment to the Bala Hissar, or evacuating Cabul, with the sacrifice of their baggage, and fighting their way to the nearest British station. Brigadier Shelton declared the first proposition impracticable, and the council of war would not agree to the second; consequently General Elphinstone acquiesced in the vote of the council of war, which was for the disastrous course adopted." Sir Robert Sale was safe in Jellalabad up to the 4th of last month; he had secured provisions for himself and his troops, and was determined to resist to the last. An earthquake on the 19th of February had done great damage to the fortifications and buildings of the town, but the resolution of the general and his troops had not only repaired the damage, but routed a party of Affghans under Akhbar Khan, who endeavoured to profit by the occasion, and to attack the British position. The troops sent to the relief of Jellalabad have met with various discouragements. The want of cannon caused the failure of Colonel Wilde's movement into the Khyber Pass. Great sickness attacked those that arrived near Peshawar before General Pollock. On the 25th of February, General Pollock issued an order to prepare for a march into the Khyber Pass, in order to relieve Jellalabad. But it was afterwards found, that as Jellalabad was not in immediate danger, it would be best to await the arrival of the 3d dragoons before the attempt should be made on the Khyber Pass. The brigade from Ferozepore was expected to reach Peshawar in the beginning of this month. The force under General Pollock would then be fully capable of effecting the passage. The Sikhs continue to afford the British troops every facility in passing through their territories, and it is even said that a strong body is ready to co-operate with General Pollock in attacking the Khyberrees and the Affghans. The letters from the prisoners in the hands of the Affghan chiefs are very short, and generally requesting money to relieve various of their pressing wants.

The last intelligence from Candahar is to the 10th of March. All was safe there. There was a large body of Affghans within twenty miles of that city; but their leader, Sufter Jung, a son of Shah Sooja, appear to dread a rencontre with the British troops. There were upwards of 7000 troops in Candahar, and a reinforcement of 2500, with money and ammunition, has been sent to General Nott from Sukkur. Khelat y Ghilzie was, with its garrison of 1000 men, also safe, although it is situate eighty miles from Candahar. In Khelat and Scinde apparent tranquillity prevails.

###### FRANCE.

The Chamber of Deputies concluded on Friday the debate on the first article of the Railroad bill, by adopting the plan of a centre line from Lille to Bourges, and a line from the Mediterranean to the Rhine, through Mulhausen. An amendment proposed to the effect that a line should be constructed from Bordeaux to Marseilles was referred to a committee to be examined.

The *Commerce* observes, that "Louis Philippe has given a significant reply to the address presented to him by the Archbishop of Paris, relative to the desecration of the Sabbath, by countenancing the non-observance of the holyday of Ascension (on Thursday), one of the days consecrated by the concordat, by the workmen employed in repairing the Chateau of St Cloud."

The *Gazette des Tribunaux* states, that a number of persons were arrested on Thursday and Friday last in Paris. The police, who, for some time past, had been on the search for a manufactory of projectiles, discovered a vast number of incendiary bomb shells at the residence of a tailor, in the Passage Violet. A quantity of gunpowder and cartouches, just made, were discovered in other quarters. Amongst the persons arrested are said to be Considere, who had been twice tried and acquitted before the Chamber of Peers, and Poncelet, who was convicted of having been engaged in the conspiracy of the Rue des Prouvaires and amnestied.

The *Sémaphore de Marseilles* of the 4th inst. says—"that Charles Albert, King of Sardinia, has lately adopted a measure worthy of the worst times of the middle ages. He has ordered the expulsion of the Israelites from the town of Savona, within a delay of three days."

The *Pressee* announces that an amnesty would be granted by the Emperor of Russia to the Polish political offenders in the month of July next.

###### SPAIN.

The Chamber of Deputies are still engaged on the discussion of the 160,000,000 Loan bill. On the 30th ult., the proposition of two members of the Finance committee, which authorised the Government to issue Treasury bonds to the amount of 160,000,000 reals, was discussed, but from the number of amendments to the bill, it was expected that



the debates would last a fortnight longer. The cabinet appeared determined not to reply to any questions put by the opposition until the bill just mentioned should be voted by the Chamber.

The period for the departure of the Infante Don Francisco de Paula was not yet fixed. Messrs Onis and Alvear, who had been commissioned to bring back to Madrid the two sons of Don Francisco, were to set out in a few days. Great preparations were in progress for celebrating the anniversary of the insurrection of the people of Madrid against the French, on the 2nd of May, 1808.

The Barcelona journals state that some agitation prevailed in that city, in consequence of the tumultuous scenes which had occurred at the theatre, where "seditious cries" had been uttered against the Regent. The military posts had been doubled, and other measures had been adopted to prevent disorders. The commanders of the national militia had addressed a letter to the political chief, complaining of the troops of the line having alone been called out on those days, to the exclusion of the armed citizens, who were most deeply interested in the maintenance of tranquillity. The memorialists concluded by an energetic protest against the distrust thus evinced by the authorities, and the doubts raised with respect to the well-known patriotism of the militia of Barcelona.

## PORTUGAL.

Advices from Lisbon state that the suspension of the negotiations for the commercial treaty had created much discontent at Oporto; fresh representations had been sent in to the Home office, and Senhor Maya, the representative of the commercial association at Oporto, had been most urgent in pressing upon the Duke of Palmella and the government its conclusion upon any terms. The Septembrist party was active in its opposition to the treaty. At a council of ministers held on the previous Saturday the government concurred in expressing an anxious wish that both the projected treaties with England should be concluded without delay; and the Duke of Palmella had informed them that he saw no reason whatever why both treaties should not be signed during the course of the present month. At the same council a project was submitted for the reconstruction of the council of state upon a more effective and intelligible basis. It will be assimilated in its operation in some respects to the British Privy council, and in others to the *Council d'Etat* in France. A difference had arisen between Monsignor Cappaccini and the Portuguese government with regard to the *personnel* of the dignitaries to be empowered to grant dispensations in cases of marriage within the prohibited degrees. The negotiations would be probably suspended until fresh instructions were received from Rome. The names of 23 new peers were under the consideration of the Queen, King, and government. At the same council of ministers, an audience had been given to two traveling agents of the Anti-Slavery society of London. The government assured those gentlemen of their desire to put down slavery within the Portuguese dominions by every means in their power.

A very splendid military banquet had been given on the 29th ult., the anniversary of the concession of the charter by Don Pedro. The Duke of Terceira presided, with Costa Cabral on his right, and Sir James Stirling, commander of the Indus, on his left. In the evening there was a grand gala at the Opera, at which the Queen was present, and received with great enthusiasm. The charter hymn was repeatedly sung with great applause, and there were splendid illuminations in the Rocio.

Within six months there had been 50 failures in the wine trade at Oporto.

## DOMESTIC.

## METROPOLITAN.

On Wednesday evening, the Hammersmith Anti-corn-law association, had a public dinner which was attended by Mr Byng, M.P., Mr O'Connell, M.P., Colonel Thompson, &c. After the usual toasts were drunk, spirited speeches were delivered on the subject of the corn-laws and tariff. Mr. O'Connell made a very energetic speech chiefly on the evils of our representative system, and the necessity for further reform. He stated that he had assisted to gain the first great instalment of parliamentary reform, and he hoped to be spared to help his venerable friend (Mr Byng) to gain the last battle. The present parliament had been selected under unhappy auspices, but the day of its terror would soon pass by. They would still seek to further the cause of liberty as they had ever done—without the destruction of property—without deranging the social system—and, above all, without shedding one drop of blood.

The Literary association of the friends of Poland held their anniversary meeting last week. It was stated that there were about 500 Polish refugees in this country, and that in answer to a memorial presented to the King of Prussia, permission was given to such Poles as were natives of the Grand Duchy of Posen to return there but that he was prevented, by a treaty with the Emperor of Russia, from extending the permission to such Poles as were natives of the Russian dominions.

At the distribution of prizes to the students of the faculty of medicine of University College, which took place on Saturday last, Lord Campbell announced to the meeting a donation by Lord Brougham of above one hundred works, which had been presented to his Lordship by Mehemet Ali.

The Marquis of Northampton gave his first *soiree*, as President of the Royal Society, on Saturday evening, at his mansion in Piccadilly. About 400 of the most distinguished Fellows of the Society were present, and many foreigners of rank and distinction, together with Mr Washington Irving and Mr Samuel Rogers, the poet.

The National Convention has been dissolved, and the members have returned to their constituencies, to prepare a memorial to the Queen in behalf of the charter, and praying her Majesty to cause it to be made the law of the land.

From the Report of the Society for the Suppression of Mendicity, it appears that from the formation of the Society in 1818, to the year 1841, 35,076 registered cases have been disposed of, and 1,264,029 meals have been distributed, exclusive of relief in money, blankets, clothing, &c. During the same period 20,646 vagrants have been arrested, and 11,638 convicted. In the past year, 1841, 2,810 men and women have been employed.

The long talked of ceremony of laying the first stone of the Victoria tower, will, it is said, take place in August, it being the intended royal entrance to the new house of Peers; and if her Majesty should not perform the ceremony, Prince Albert will act for the Queen on the occasion.—*Morning Chronicle*.

In consequence of the great inconvenience so often experienced in transmitting money from the country to the vicinity of the metropolis, and the complaints made at the Post Office, Lord Lowther has issued an order to appoint an extra number of receiving houses within the three miles circle, and has extended them to ten and fifteen miles round London, for the convenience of those who reside within the limits of those districts, without, as heretofore, being compelled to make the orders payable at the Chief office, St Martin's le Grand.

## PROVINCIAL.

The election of a member in the room of Mr Wigney, late M.P. for Brighton, took place on Friday, and terminated in the return of Lord Alfred Hervey, by a majority of 637. The numbers were for Lord Hervey, 1277; for Mr Harford, 640; for Mr Brooker (chartist), 16.

At the first monthly meeting of the Leicester Complete Suffrage association, letters were read from each of the borough representatives in answer to a requisition urging them to support Mr Crawford's motion. The following are copies of the same:—

"London, April 23, 1842.

"DEAR SIR—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 20th inst., which I received a few hours previous to the debate on Mr Sharman Crawford's motion.

"I exceedingly regret that my supporters at Leicester have changed their political sentiments, so far as to become the supporters of annual parliaments and universal suffrage. Those two points were distinctly embodied in Mr Sharman Crawford's motion. I therefore felt it impossible to vote for that motion, opposed as I am, and ever have been, to those extreme opinions.

"I am anxious for the ballot and for household suffrage, and I am ready to support the doing away with the property qualification of members; but I cannot make up my mind, in the present condition of national education, to go further; nor can I, after very careful reflection, consent to shorten the duration of parliament below three years. A proposition to make parliaments triennial would receive my cordial support. I am ready to inquire into the question of the division of the electoral body into districts equalised to accord with the number of electors; but if I were to vote without inquiry, and without carefully collecting all the information in my power upon that subject, I should then indeed feel that I was a very rash and very unfit person to be the representative of so large and respectable a body of constituents. I felt extreme reluctance to differ from so large a number of my constituents; and therefore I expressed, in the House of Commons, the grounds upon which I felt obliged to give my vote.

"My constituents must perceive that in becoming chartists they have changed their opinions, and not I mine.

"I grieve for the distress which pervades the manufacturing interest of Leicester, and for the indifference which has been exhibited by the government, and a majority of the legislature, towards that distress. These I take to have been the chief causes for the change towards extreme opinions which is indicated in the communication you do me the honour to send me; and I know it will be very difficult to inculcate patience and forbearance under sufferings and privations so little regarded by those who ought to exert themselves for their mitigation and removal.

"But if I were myself to become a supporter of the charter, and the chartists were to become successful, I then believe that no long time would elapse before we should make the painful discovery, that in seeking such a remedy we had aggravated individual sufferings and national wrongs.

"Entertaining these opinions, you can scarcely suppose that I could adopt any other course than that which I did, most conscientiously, adopt upon the occasion of Mr Sharman Crawford's motion.

"Do me the kindness to communicate this answer to the gentlemen who signed the instruction to me. I remain, yours very respectfully,

"JOHN EASTHOPE."

"30, Cadogan Place, April 22, 1842.

"SIR—I duly received your letter, and also the two from the electors; the one for Sir John Easthope I immediately forwarded to him.

"As I have strong objections to some of the principles of the charter, I abstained from voting for the motion of the hon. member for Rochdale: but this course does not prevent my supporting a more sound and reasonable proposal whenever it shall be brought forward. And I must be permitted to add, that I cannot suffer myself to be influenced by any threats which some of the electors of Leicester hold out, as to the course which they deem proper to take at a future time—it is a matter for their consideration and determination. I have the honour to be, sir,

"Your very obedient servant,

"Mr John Manning.

WYNN ELLIS."

The Chairman (Mr Manning) then read the following extract from a letter he had received from Birmingham:—"It is with the greatest pleasure, that the council are able to report the rapid progress which the movement is making in various parts of the country. The communications they are constantly receiving are of the most cheering character, and stimulate them to go forward in the cause with increased energy." It was determined to issue an address to the people of Leicester, on the present crisis, and some further business of no great importance was subsequently transacted.

Several meetings have lately been held in different places of the county of Merioneth, Wales, for the advancement of the principles of complete suffrage, which afford highly satisfactory evidence of the progress of the question in that quarter. Lectures have been delivered on the subject by Mr G. Evans, of Maesypandy.

On Sunday last there was a meeting of at least 5000 people on Derpley Moor, near Bacup, to discuss political affairs; the state of trade; destitution of the work-people; and other gloomy subjects. Police officers in coloured clothes were in attendance; and some of the people manifested a desire to have them removed; but the chairman of the meeting advised quietness, and the policemen were allowed to remain. Another meeting is fixed for Sunday next at Knowle Hill, near Bagsdale, a short distance from Rochdale and Bury.—*Manchester Times*.

At Leeds the depression in trade still continues; at Huddersfield it is dull; at Rochdale and Bradford slightly improving; at Manchester less active than last week. Emigration from this neighbourhood continues to increase. Hundreds of active and intelligent operatives have left the surrounding district for the shores of America, taking with them the remnant of their hard-earned savings to spend in the United States. Several respectable and industrious families now residing in this town are also making preparations for their departure, for the same destination, harassed and perplexed by their stay in this over-taxed and monopoly-ridden country. These are fearful signs, and show the depressed and stagnant state to which the trade of England, notwithstanding the enterprise and skill of its people, has been brought.—*Manchester Times*.

## SCOTLAND.

On the 2nd instant, a general meeting of the inhabitants of Forfar took place to hear from Mr Curr an account of his mission, as a dele-



gate to the Birmingham conference. At the conclusion of his address, the following resolution was proposed and unanimously carried:—"That this meeting, having heard Mr Curr give an account of his mission to Birmingham, do approve of the principles agreed on at that conference, and of the means of carrying out these principles—resolve to form a society, based on such principles, and appoint a committee to prepare rules and regulations, to be submitted to a future general meeting for approval."—A committee, consisting of equal numbers of the middle and working classes, was then appointed.

A complete suffrage association has also been formed at Cupar. At a meeting held for that purpose, all the principles adopted by the Birmingham conference were approved of—it was resolved that no person in future should receive their support as a representative who will not advocate these principles—it was agreed to open a correspondence with the other burghs and similar associations in the county, and a committee was appointed to carry out these views.

At a meeting of delegates from various places in the county of Fifeshire, held at Kettle, to take into consideration the best means of advancing the principles contained in the charter, an animated discussion took place in reference to the policy to be pursued towards the "National Complete Suffrage Union." Several parties spoke in favour of an immediate conjunction with it, others against it; and it was at length resolved that they should wait the course of events, to test the sincerity of the new movement before joining it.

On Wednesday last a public meeting of the Edinburgh Complete Suffrage Union, took place at the Waterloo room, Mr Dunlop in the chair. The Rev. Dr Ritchie gave an account of his mission as delegate to the Birmingham conference, in an interesting and effective speech, and was followed by Mr Scott and Mr Adam, of the *Aberdeen Herald*. After a vote of thanks to the delegates, a resolution was unanimously adopted, approving of the principles laid down at the conference. With regard to annual parliaments it was proposed that this point should be recommended at a future meeting of conference, in order if possible that they might come to as unanimous a resolution on that point as on the others. Mr D. Renton in an able and eloquent speech then moved:—"That the meeting earnestly urge all sincere reformers to become members of the Edinburgh Complete Suffrage Union, as the likeliest means of speedily securing an efficient reform, and that the meeting consider it to be their imperative duty to use every constitutional influence to return to parliament those who assent to the declaration drawn up by Mr Sturge." This resolution was also carried unanimously. Thanks were also voted to Mr S. Crawford, M.P., for the able manner in which he brought forward the motion for complete suffrage in the house of Commons, and to the 68 honourable members who voted with him on the occasion.

A meeting of the Glasgow Emancipation society, was held on Wednesday last, to hear the report of the Rev. Mr Harvey, of Calton, as delegate to the Anti-Slavery convention lately held at Paris. The Rev. W. Anderson, the Rev. Dr Ritchie, Mr George Thompson, and several other gentlemen, ably addressed the meeting, and resolutions thanking him for the zeal, fidelity, and talent, with which he discharged the trust confided to him by the emancipation committee—deprecating of the government project of importing natives of India into our sugar colonies—urging the immediate and strenuous opposition of the enemies of slavery to the Hill Cooley scheme—and agreeing on a petition to the House of Commons and a memorial to her Majesty's ministers embodying the sentiments of the meeting, were carried by acclamation.

#### MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

**DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.**—The past week has been fatally prolific of conflagrations in different parts of the country. At Colechester five houses fell a prey to the flames, in the High street, the inhabitants being with difficulty removed uninjured, and the progress of the destructive element was only stopped by pulling down the greater part of an adjoining house. All the houses were insured.—A fire broke out at the printing office of the *Sussex Advertiser*, Lewes, by which the whole of the premises, valued at £2000, were completely destroyed, including all the property employed in printing; and unfortunately Mr Lee, the proprietor of the paper, is uninsured.—A public house, in Lambeth street, Whitechapel, was completely burned down, notwithstanding the exertions of the firemen, and the stock and property much injured.—At Huddersfield, a mill belonging to Messrs Learoyd and Co., was completely destroyed by fire, and the loss is estimated at £12,000.—A destructive fire occurred on Sunday, at Deal, by which a great amount of property was destroyed.—In the village of Beauminster, Dorsetshire, several houses, the dwellings of labouring men, fell a prey to the devouring element, and on the following night a second fire destroyed two more houses.—A large manufactory and warehouse, at Kidderminster, the property of Messrs Aleock and Co., and Mr Law, were totally destroyed by fire.—Other destructive fires have happened at Cheriton, in Devon; at Morleaton and at Rial, in Dorset.

**MURDERS BY A HIGHWAYMAN.**—On Thursday afternoon, the neighbourhoods of Hornsey, Highbury, and Islington, were thrown into a state of great excitement by a report, that the murder of a policeman had taken place, and that another policeman and a baker, residing at Hornsey, had been shot, near Highbury-barn, by a highwayman, whom they were pursuing for the purpose of taking into custody, on suspicion of being concerned in several highway and other robberies, which have taken place in that neighbourhood during the last two or three weeks. The rumour was found to be too true. It appears that for the last three weeks a series of highway robberies have been perpetrated on persons passing through the fields in and near the Hornsey-wood-house, by a footpad said to have been heavily armed. On Thursday, Charles Moss, police constable, followed a man answering to the description given of the highwayman, and on approaching to within a few yards, the villain turned round and fired a pistol at him, the ball lodging in Moss's right arm. Moss called loudly for help, and police constable Mallet, and a journeyman baker, named Charles Mott, joined in the pursuit of the suspected robber. The man then got into a lane where there was no thoroughfare, and, perceiving his

error, planted himself against a wall, with a pistol in each hand, and on the approach of Timothy Daley, police constable, to seize him, the villain fired at him, and he fell on the ground lifeless; and wounded Mott, who fortunately stumbled, or he would have been killed. By this time his other pursuers came up, and the murderer was seized. On being searched, a knife or dagger upwards of a foot long, and sharpened at the point on each side, was found concealed down his fob pocket. No police had come up by this time, and the people assembled bound the assassin's hands with cords, and in that way conveyed him to the Islington station. He gave his name as Thomas Cooper, of Clerkenwell, and said he was 23 years of age, and a bricklayer by trade. Mott has since died of the wound he received; but the policeman Moss is expected to recover. The prisoner has undergone several examinations, and is fully committed for trial.

**ELEPHANT'S REVENGE.**—A few days since, John Glascott, a groom, was conveyed to the London Hospital with a severe fracture in the leg near the ankle. The injury was caused by an elephant, and is an additional proof that that animal is mindful of its wrongs. Glascott had been witnessing the performances of the elephant in a booth in the Commercial-road, and took it into his head to amuse himself by teasing the animal. Nothing more happened then; but in the afternoon of the same day, Glascott returned to the booth with his children; and whilst they were intent on the feats of the animal, it suddenly wound its trunk round the man's leg, and did not uncoil it until the limb was fractured. The surgical treatment Glascott received in the hospital at first succeeded, but a day or two back erysipelas attacked the system, and on Sunday terminated fatally.

**TEA.**—The tea plantations at Assam, it appears from the report of the company, will soon grow tea enough to supply the demands of all nations. By the end of 1845 they will produce 850,000 lbs. of tea; the annual value of these will be £32,000; the charge of their cultivation, £23,100, leaving a balance of £8,900 profit.

**INEQUALITY OF REPRESENTATION.**—The population of Great Britain and Ireland is now 27,000,000, and the constituency embraces about a sixth of the total number of males above twenty-one years of age. The registration returns for 1841 state the total number of electors at 994,731, a number from which a large deduction should be made for a plurality of votes, the majority of freeholders having at least two votes, one for a borough and one for a county. But the limited extent of the constituency does not strike the attention so much as the curious fact of a minority of electors returning the majority of representatives. A sixth portion of the constituency of the United Kingdom returns more than one half (a clear majority) of the members of the House of Commons. While the whole constituency of the United Kingdom is 994,731 for the whole 658 members, 341 out of the number represent only a constituency of 164,810. Was ever a scheme of representation so cunningly devised to defeat its apparent object?

**SINGULAR DISCOVERY.**—Blue glass has been discovered by a French scientific horticulturist to promote vegetation in a most extraordinary manner, as it admits none but the chemical rays of light. Red passes only the caloric, and yellow and green only the luminous particles, both of which, without the chemical, kill the plants; white glass has no influence at all.

#### RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Mr Simpson Todd, who has laboured as town missionary in connexion with the baptist church, Ashton-under-Lyre, for two years, has accepted the invitation of the first baptist church in Bacup, Lancashire, to supply them for one year, and commences his labours the first Sabbath in June.

The first anniversary of the opening of the English independent chapel at Merthyr Tydfil, was held on Wednesday and Thursday, May 4th and 5th. The interest of the services on the Wednesday was increased by the ordination of the Rev. Edward Griffith, late of Highbury college, to the pastoral office, as minister of this infant cause. The Rev. William Jones of Swansea, commenced by reading and prayer; the Rev. J. H. Bunn of Abergavenny, delivered the introductory discourse, and asked the usual questions; the Rev. J. Gillman of Newport, Monmouthshire, offered the ordination prayer; and the Rev. Spedding Curwen of Reading, the young minister's pastor, delivered a solemn and affectionate charge from Daniel vi, 3, "An excellent spirit was in him." The Rev. William Jones of Swansea, preached to the people in the evening of the same day. On Thursday morning, at eleven o'clock, the Rev. William Jones again preached. At three o'clock in the afternoon the Rev. David Williams of Llanwrtyd, preached in Welsh. In the evening at half-past six, the Rev. Spedding Curwen preached in English, and the Rev. Thomas Rees of Llanelly, in Welsh. The Revs Messrs Hughes, R. Jones, and Owen, and Messrs William Wills of Bristol, and Walker, took part in the devotional services.

On Thursday morning, April 28, 1842, the Rev. Charles Bingley, late a student in Airedale Independent college, Undercliffe, near Bradford, was publicly set apart to the pastorate over the independent church at Middlesborough-on-Tees, in the North Riding of Yorkshire. The following ministers took part in the services—the Rev. Joseph Walker of Northallerton, read the scriptures and prayed; the Rev. W. Campbell, A.M., of Newcastle, delivered the introductory discourse; the Rev. W. Hinners of Aytton, proposed the usual questions and received Mr Bingley's confession of faith; the Rev. J. C. Potter of Whitby, offered the ordination prayer with imposition of hands; the charge was delivered by Mr Bingley's former pastor, the Rev. Thomas Scales of Leeds. The Revs Messrs Hackett, Mitchell, Jameson, and W. Long, baptist minister, of Stockton, took part in the services. The sermon to the church and congregation was delivered in the evening by the Rev. John Ely of Leeds. Both services were numerously attended, and deep solemnity pervaded the assembly.

The annual meeting of the Religious Freedom society was held on Friday last, at the London Tavern; Colonel Fox, M.P. in the chair. The report was read by the secretary, Mr Conder, and resolutions were moved and seconded by the Revs. J. Burnett, H. Hinton, W. Knibb; and Messrs. Yorke, M.P., Fox Maule, M.P., J. R. Mills, &c.



## BIBLE TRANSLATION SOCIETY.

The second anniversary of this society was held at New Park street chapel, on Friday April 29. J. H. ALLEN, Esq., took the chair, and opened the business of the meeting by a few observations on the importance of extending as much as possible the circulation of the holy scriptures.

The Rev. E. STEANE then read the report, which after detailing the general proceedings of the society, stated that the correspondence which the committee had carried on with the missionary brethren in Calcutta, had been, in all points of view, highly interesting, and, in some, of considerable importance. The Bengalee bible, with marginal references, had been printed to 2 Kings vii. In the same language, an edition of Isaiah and Daniel, intended to be bound together, had been completed. The Proverbs had been reprinted. Of each of those books, 5,000 copies had been struck off. To those, must be added 5,000 copies of the New Testament; 2,500 of the Gospels and Acts; 3,000 Luke and Acts; and 3,000 Acts. In Sanscrit, the Proverbs had been rendered into verse, and an edition of 2,000 copies printed. In Persian, the New Testament, 1,000 copies. In Hindui and Hindustani, the printing of the New Testament had proceeded to the middle of Luke. This last mentioned version, according to the testimony of friend and foe, was unparalleled. Besides these several works completed, various editions of the scriptures, or parts of the scriptures, were in progress in the Sanscrit, the Hindui, the Bengali, and the Hindustani languages. The testimony of the missionaries from all the stations, united in representing the desire of the natives, both Hindus and Mussulmen, for our sacred books. From the 1st of January, 1840, to the 18th of February of the present year, there had been issued from the depository at the baptist mission press in Calcutta, 91,256 volumes, consisting either of parts or of the whole of the bible; and these, added to the issues of the two years preceding, gave a total of 151,000 volumes put into circulation in the course of only four years.

The Rev. J. JACKSON, of Taunton, moved the adoption of the report; and expressed his warm attachment to the Bible society; and his determination still to render it every aid in his power. He cared not what became of his baptist peculiarities except so far as they were evidently supported by the plain testimony of the word of God.

The Rev. J. SOULE, of Battersea, seconded the resolution, which was put and carried.

The Rev. Dr. CARSON, then moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting is deeply impressed with the magnitude of the work carried on by the baptist missionaries at Calcutta, in the preparation and circulation of so large a number of copies of the holy scriptures in the languages of the East, and, perceiving this work continually to exhaust the funds which are available for its support, attaches great importance to the steady augmentation of the society's funds."

He observed upon the immense importance of translating the bible into new languages; and contended that, however important the preaching of the gospel with the living voice, yet it ought by no means to supersede the dissemination of the word of God, more especially as many sects refused to do this.

The church of Rome would not give the bible; the Puseyites would not give it; and, indeed, some of the bishops have said, lately, that they cannot give it [hear, hear]. The church of Rome says plainly, "We will not allow you to read the scriptures—no, not our own scriptures." I was present at the great discussion in Carlow, when the famous riot was there; and on the platform it was asked, "Will you allow us to give the scriptures, if we give your own version?" One gentleman said: "We will put the Douay translation into the hands of every man in Ireland, if you will allow us." The reply was, "No, Sir, we will not allow you; the people must have that work from us; you have no right to intrude among our people." And the Bishop of Salisbury, the other day, gave as one of his reasons against the distribution of the scriptures, that they were disseminated in parishes where the rector was opposed to it; and that it was the business of the church to give the bible. Now, what is that but popery? Can there be a greater insult to the living God than that? They treat the Lord himself as men have sometimes treated an idiot prince; they do everything in his name, and they sometimes bring him forward; but he must speak nothing but what they tell him.

They, as baptists, dare venture to send the bible as it was, alone, trusting to the common sense of every man to find out their views on baptism. He dwelt upon the peculiar facilities the society possessed for the work of translation in India, and the good already effected in that quarter. The common translation was an excellent one, although there were some imperfections in it; and if one were to be made now, none having been made before it, would not be so good.

Some people would make it a Puseyite version; but our translation is made; we ought to bless God for it; for, although the work was in the hand of our opponents, and they had the whole direction of it, it was made with a fairness, that we could not at all expect now. There was at that period also, a great deal of solid learning, of acquaintance with the original languages, without any knowledge of what is termed criticism. On the contrary, at the present time, there is a great deal of supposed knowledge of criticism, without any thorough acquaintance with manners and things. Persons talk very learnedly and very decidedly; but they trade very extensively on a very little capital.

He then enlarged upon the difficulties attendant upon the work of translation, and pointed out various false rules of criticism and errors into which some translators had fallen; and laid down various rules which he thought it highly important their translators should follow.

The Rev. R. STEPHENS, of Newport, in seconding the resolution, stated that he differed from Mr Jackson on the subject of the Bible society.

In its connexion with the question that has brought us together, and in reference to its conduct to the baptist denomination, I am not its friend. I believe, and I say it, that we have endured a grievous wrong. It is might against right. And we permitted ourselves to be pummeled, and beaten, and scolded; and we would not go out, till, at last, they put us out by force. Not only am not I myself friendly (in that connexion, remember; and, in all the reference I make to it, it is in connexion with the business of this evening), but I have never met with a member of the Bible society that would sit down, and calmly and deliberately compare notes with me on that point.

He was quite sure the baptists were not the peace breakers in the matter. They did not preach baptism so frequently as others preached against it; nor did they publish first upon the question.

The Rev. W. F. BURCHELL moved the appointment of the committee for the ensuing year, and the motion was seconded by

The Rev. W. KNIBB, who was loudly cheered. He said he felt the

more pleasure in standing on that platform, as he was persuaded it was the only Bible society meeting he should be permitted to take part in. He was the representative of a part of his brethren in the West, who had agreed to form an Auxiliary society.

My esteemed brother Steane may think that it would not be amiss to furnish the islands of the West with a good translation. You must remember that we have no monopoly there. If the Queen's printer can prevent you from printing the Bible for circulation here, they cannot prevent you from sending it there. If a proper translation of the Word of God be sent to the colonies, we can and will read it. This, if I mistake not, will have a direct influence on our future operations in Africa. Some remarks have been made respecting the translation of the Bible into the numerous tongues on that vast and extended continent. Now, my firm persuasion is, that the English language will become the dominant language there. All our negroes who go back, will carry with them what they know of it; there are numbers on the coast of Africa who understand it; there is an aptitude in the Africans for obtaining not a classical, but a useful knowledge of it; and my impression is, that, when schools are established by our missionaries, they will be conducted in the English language; at least, I would do it. The languages of Africa are exceedingly meagre; they have no classic lore connected with them; they merely express bread and cheese, and the common necessities of life. By teaching them the English language, we shall have a store of knowledge to pour into their minds, from the inimitable catechism of Dr. Watts to a good translation of the Word of God.

He rejoiced to hear that they had help from America, but he trusted it was all anti-slavery money; as he should not like one single dollar to come from any slave-holder. He then went into a defence of the doctrine of adult baptism, and urged upon all who held that doctrine to come out from amongst other sects and dwell among their own churches; and give all their influence and energy to support their own views.

If all the baptists in London that assist to fill the different independent chapels would just come and help their brethren, they would be doing what I would tell independents to do, who come and sit with us. An individual connected with the Church of England assembled with us in Falmouth, when there was no evangelical clergyman. A letter was written in my house, addressed to the bishop, asking him to procure one; and when one was obtained, I said to this gentleman, "It is not your duty to remain in my church. You have now a minister who preaches the gospel, go to him and do your duty" [cheers]. So I say to every baptist, so say I to every independent, and to every one who believes, after having searched the word of God, that the principles he professes are right. It is high time, if our principles are right, that we should stick to them. [Applause]. I say this with all the benevolence of my heart to others; and that man is not worthy the name of a man, who cannot hear sentiments like these propounded without taking offence.

He then entered into a vindication of the conduct of the baptists in originating and carrying on the society, and concluded with an urgent appeal to them to stand fast by their principles.

The Rev. Dr Cox then moved the following resolution, which was seconded by the Rev. E. STEANE.

"That the second rule of the society do, henceforth, stand as follows:—  
"That it shall be the object of this society to aid in printing and circulating those translations of the holy scriptures, from which the British and Foreign Bible society has withdrawn its assistance, on the ground that the words relating to the ordinance of baptism, have been translated by words signifying immersion; and further to aid in producing and circulating other versions of the word of God, similarly faithful and complete."

The doxology was then sung, and the benediction having been pronounced, the meeting separated.

## CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION SOCIETY.

The seventeenth anniversary of this society was held at Finsbury chapel on Tuesday, May 3, Sir C. E. SMITH, Bart, in the chair.

The Rev. J. BLACKBURN read the report which stated, that the little band of not a hundred gratuitous visitors who first associated to promote the objects of this society had increased to 2,354, who were systematically employed in their benevolent operations. The gratuitous visitors were divided into 103 associations; the number of families visited was 57,553; there were 135 stations, and 13 missionaries. Gratifying as these totals were, yet, if the statistics of each metropolitan division were examined, the disproportion between the efforts of the churches and the exigencies of the people was most affecting and admonitory. The census of 1841 gave the population of the metropolis as 1,870,727 persons, which showed that, after all the progress the society had made, there yet remained 1,583,000 at this moment untouched by the efforts of its benevolent agents. In making that statement, however, the committee had not forgotten that there were kindred societies, and other bodies of Christians, happily engaged in the same work; and were employing other instruments and agencies to raise the moral character of our fellow-citizens. The prayer meetings and cottage lectures had been greatly honoured of God. During the past year, considerable prosperity had attended the Sunday schools connected with many of the stations. During the past summer, five preaching tents had been used. About 150 open air services had been held in various places in the suburban parts of the metropolis. Two courses of lectures had been delivered at Bishopsgate and Barbican chapels, which had been attended by several hundreds of young men, principally belonging to those classes whose improvement was specially contemplated by those services. For several years past, the society had extended tent and out-of-door preaching services to the rural parts of the metropolitan counties: and last year they were held in Middlesex, Surrey, and Herts. The report concluded by an urgent appeal for increased financial support.

The Rev. J. CLAYTON moved the first resolution,  
"That this meeting cannot adopt the report now read, and order the printing and circulation of the same, without also recording the grateful satisfaction with which it contemplates the gratuitous and self-denying efforts of nearly 2,400 voluntary agents, who are engaged in systematically visiting more than 57,500 families, residing within the boundaries of this metropolis; to manifest, in their neglected homes, the charities of our holy religion, and to deposit in their minds the incorruptible seed of scripture truth. At the same time, remembering that it is 'the Spirit that quickeneth,' this meeting would earnestly implore those showers of divine influence, which are needed to vivify and germinate the good seed, by which alone it can become fruitful, and yield a harvest, so that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."

After a few introductory observations, he proceeded—Assuredly, if we call this a Christian Instruction society, where is the Christian who must not cherish towards it a warm and vivid attachment? For what is its object, but, as the report has more than once stated, to pluck sinners as brands from the burning, and to win souls to Jesus Christ? What its means, but the circulation of the scriptures, the distribution



of tracts, and other works based upon the principles of the gospel, and able to make men wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus? Who are its emissaries? Those men who have tasted the sweetness of the glorious gospel of the blessed God, and who feel determined to carry out, by Divine help, that resolution, "Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee." And what, I may add, is the spirit of the emissaries of this institution, and of the society itself? Certainly it is the spirit of charity; for it ministers to the poor and distressed. Certainly it is the spirit of prayer; for its emissaries, in going from house to house, utter their fervent petitions on behalf of the inhabitants of the garrets and hovels to which they often find access. The institution conducts its operations in a spirit of generous catholicism. When the missionaries of this society take their walks abroad, they do not inquire whether the parties with whom they meet, consort with papists or demi-semi-papists [laughter]—or whether they are episcopalians, presbyterians, or dissenters. No! they go to them as fallen creatures, languishing and groaning beneath the evils of the apostacy; and carry with them that gospel which is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes. Their great desire is to recover man from the ruin into which he has been plunged by his departure from God; and to bring him back to the enjoyment of his favour, the possession of his image, and the hope of that heaven where he resides [hear, hear]. I very highly esteem the societies which diffuse useful sciences throughout the community. I honour those societies which advocate the rights which, as men, we are born to possess and to enjoy. But I love those societies with my whole heart which aim to turn men "from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to the power of God;" and this is the object which the Christian Instruction society aims to secure. Apart from the exercise of affection, I think a sense of duty should constrain us all to accomplish what we can to support this invaluable institution. Duty to God should thus constrain us; for he tells us, "Thou shalt in anywise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him" [hear, hear]. He has conferred upon us a variety of talents—some one, some two, some five, and some ten; but they are only lent to us, with the injunction, "Occupy till I come." It seems to me to amount to an absurdity to suppose that, if God communicates to us temporal blessings and we are required to impart of them to mitigate the wants of our fellow-creatures, we can be justified in withholding the bread and the water of life—the unsearchable riches of Christ. This society does not attempt to trample upon the success of other institutions; but it employs all those agents whom it can secure, who are enlightened by the Spirit of God, and who have felt the love of Christ shed abroad in their hearts, to communicate the knowledge they possess to others. If affection and duty dictate the importance of sustaining this society, assuredly I may venture to add that we do not labour without much hope of valuable profit. What a document has been read in our hearing to-night! What a statement is this which is made in two lines,—that nearly 2,400 voluntary agents are occupied in diffusing the savour of Christ's knowledge in every place; and that 57,000 families are receiving visits from its messengers of truth and mercy [hear, hear, hear]. Is it not a recompense to see and to feel that an extensive instrumentality for the accomplishment of most important ends is gradually enlarging itself, and multiplying those channels through which truth is conveyed to the minds of men? Is it not a recompense, to be permitted to enjoy the luxury of doing good? When I speak of recompense in the work in which we are occupied, in connexion with this society, oh, what a glorious prospect opens to those who will be found faithful unto death in such a service as this! Doubtless, you have often admired the splendour of the firmament, when you have gone forth on a clear evening and seen the moon walking in her brightness, and the stars glistening like diamonds in the sky; you have gazed with admiration, when the sun has risen to its noon-day glory. These are the images which the Holy Spirit has employed to illustrate the gratuitous reward to faithful labourers in his cause. "They that be wise, shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars, for ever and ever." But, after all, numerous and glorious as are the advantages which we hope to derive from the labours of love in which we are occupied in association with this institution, we are totally dependent upon the Divine Spirit to secure them. In vain will the society have been formed, in vain will numbers of its agents occupy themselves in devoted activity, in vain will talented and active secretaries draw up reports and habitually attend committees, in vain will those committees attend to their duties—all will prove abortive with respect to the best results, "until the Spirit be poured out from on high." The meeting, therefore, must earnestly implore those showers of Divine influence which are needed to vivify and germinate the good seed. The doctrine of Divine influence is that which nature teaches, which reason suggests, which observation exhibits, and which the Word of God displays and confirms. "Paul may plant, and Apollos may water; but God giveth the increase." I cannot, therefore, but express an earnest hope that all present will bear in mind the valuable suggestion with which the resolution closes; and that, in the retirement of their closets, at their family altars, in the social circle, and in the general assembly, they will plead for a copious effusion of the gifts, and graces, and influences of the Holy Spirit. Then, to carry out the image, there will be the blade, and the ear, and the full corn in the ear. Then there will be an abundant and golden harvest, which shall crown our efforts; and thus God will condescend to fulfil the promise and prediction of his own Word, "He that goeth forth weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

The Rev. C. STOVEL said he had great pleasure in seconding the resolution, because he had had an opportunity of knowing, from persons acquainted with individuals and facts, that the efforts made by the society, during the past year, had been attended with success in its prime and leading object. Sinners had been converted to God; and, on the avowal of that conversion, added to Christian churches. They had witnessed such instances standing out as striking in their features as any that had been recorded in the report; and it was pleasing to have the opportunity of bearing this testimony to their arduous exertions, as also to the numerous obligations by which they were bound to cherish the most unfeigned thankfulness. Respecting the agents employed, he thought that the manner in which they pursued their occupation, was their highest praise: for, though there had been

some instances in which individuals had neglected home duties to attend to public engagements, such instances were rare. That was not the principle on which the society acted. They would not call a mother away from home, to the neglect of her children. They would not call a father away from his family, to the neglect of his household. They would call no deacon away from the church which he serves, to the neglect of its affairs. They would wrench no pastor away from his legitimate calling and avocation. But they gave them an opportunity by which they might use their spare time and their spare resources. They gave up their ease and their pleasures, in doing good to those who were destitute around them. He thought, therefore, that they stood on high ground. The sphere of their operations gave a still greater credit to their employments; for it was not in public assemblies, where loud applause met the ear, but they laboured out in the holes and nests of wickedness, depravity, and wretchedness, where taste finds nothing to delight it, where science finds little to inform it, and where all the feelings of human nature, except Christianised humanity, must necessarily be offended. They gave up the delights of sweet and inviting circles, in order that they might have the pleasure of communicating improvement. He held, that where vice stood out in its greatest form of wretchedness, and appeared in its most wild aspect, that there, instead of a Christian shrinking from the scene because it was so gross, those were the very data on which he should rest, to arrive at the point of duty. If he were to speak of the indirect advantages which had been conferred through the agency employed by the society, it would occupy too much time. They might be seen in the improvement of households; in the rescue of children from the streets; in the reconciliation of husbands to their wives, and wives to their husbands; in the production of temperance, and in the suppression of drunkenness. But, while the society had advanced in usefulness, it had not arrived at the position which the promises of the gospel might justly lead them to expect. Amongst all the activities of the present day, this feature had always struck him with the deepest interest, though sometimes that interest was painful to the mind. There was nothing in the success of the activities of the church which at all corresponded to the promises of the gospel of Christ. It was true there were conversions here and there; but, if it should happen that there was something like the appearance of pentecostal times, they stood appalled, as though it were all rashness and headstrong madness. He would suggest to the society that they occupied vantage ground; and had a solemn trust. They moved around the sphere of every church, and looked into the elements that made up their congregations; thousands of individuals who had heard the gospel came under the investigation of their agents—men who had been excluded from churches; men who had not been admitted; men in all stages of religious instruction, came within their reach; and there ought to be a most intensely interesting inquiry, what were the moral difficulties that obstructed the operations of the churches, and what were the moral things that stood in the way of the success of truth. He believed there was one point in which they might find a clue. We had now arrived at a state of civilisation, and had a kind of religious prudence on which we leaned. Almost everywhere they heard the word "tact." A man had tact in putting truth, in shifting blame from himself, in lodging imputations. There was too much leaning upon tact. The blessed Spirit never would be bound down to the rules of tact. The open hearted, the ingenuous, the sincere penitent, would find mercy at his feet. Those whose hearts were transparent as the dewdrop, must receive the beam of his smile, and become as beautiful as that dewdrop in the morning sun [cheers]. But he held that there was nothing to lead them to expect that the energies of the Holy Spirit would combine with the tact of which he spoke. [The speaker was proceeding to discuss the subject of infant baptism, when he was interrupted by cries of "question," and great confusion; in the midst of which he resumed his seat.]

The Rev. Dr MORISON moved the second resolution:—

"That the returns of the late census show, that the inhabitants of this Metropolis have increased, within ten years, almost 400,000 persons; and that the present population of these clustered cities and boroughs, exceeds 1,800,000 souls. And that it also appears, from the average returns of the registrar-general's report, that more than 47,000 persons die every year in this great capital; therefore, these well attested facts supply, in the judgment of this meeting, most powerful motives to induce every member of this society to continue their self-denying labours, and also to excite those numerous congregations in this metropolis, who are not engaged in promoting the 'Christian instruction' of their neighbours, to unite in these truly benevolent efforts, that the Author of Eternal Life may be known and obeyed by those myriads who are so near to death around them."

This resolution is intended to inscribe upon the memory, and to fix upon the conscience of this assembly, the appalling facts, (for such they are,) that the cities of London and Westminster, with their surrounding boroughs, contain a population of 1,800,000 souls; that, in the very brief space of ten years, this vast aggregate of immortal, accountable, and sinful beings has realised an increase of nearly 400,000; and that no fewer than 47,000 of these pass annually into an eternal world, and are carried beyond the reach of all Christian effort [hear, hear]. Sir, am I misstating, when I assert that these are appalling facts? Were our means of meeting the moral and spiritual wants of this tremendous mass of human beings twice as great as they are, the facts still would be appalling, inasmuch as the conviction must still come upon us, that we have not reached, I might almost say not even touched, some of the most formidable evils which it is our object to mitigate and remove. One thing, Christian friends, is to my mind certain, and I think must be to yours; namely, that if places of worship could be provided for the whole of the one million eight hundred thousand souls inhabiting this great Babylon, and if Christian and efficient pastors could be placed over every individual congregation, there would be, from the very position of human nature, hundreds of thousands unapproached by the offices of Christian beneficence. The office of Christian pastor, whatever of zeal and energy may legitimately pertain to it, cannot, without being in some way supplemented, reach the core of that ignorance, that vice, and that squalid misery, which riot, and which are concealed, in the deep and dark recesses of this vast and guilty metropolis. It is most certain that neither ecclesiastical structures, nor humble meeting houses, nor popular preachers, can call out from the fearful dens (what else, sir, can I call them?) from the fearful dens of pollution and crime, multitudes who are yet shivering upon the brink of everlasting ruin. If they are ever reached at all, it must be, as our practical knowledge now teaches us, by a spiritual agency prepared to meet their case. This metropolis must be care-



fully mapped out by the efforts of Christian philanthropy; and the messengers of mercy pertaining to this and to similar institutions, must enter the abodes of vice and misery themselves; they must cause the inhabitants of those wretched abodes to feel that Christianity is something more than a regular routine or round of weekly services; that it has bowels of compassion, to yearn over the miserable and the neglected; that it can perform deeds of mercy and of kindness, the full reward of which can only be realised in the resurrection of the just [cheers]. Sir, I am persuaded, from the little observation I have been enabled to give to labours such as those in which your society, and other kindred societies, are engaged, that they are one of the most important additions to the energy of the Christian ministry that have been supplied, either in ancient or in modern times [hear, hear]. I speak of my own place of worship, because we are, perhaps, better acquainted with home than elsewhere; and I think I can say with truth, that I have at least a hundred regular hearers, who are very rarely absent, who have been brought from total neglect of public ordinances to attend upon the stated ministration of the gospel by means of the labours of the Christian Instruction society [hear, hear]. I would also state, sir, to encourage our dear friends who are engaged in this work, and they need encouragement, that I have, during the last two years, received into Christian fellowship about seven or eight individuals, who were first brought to attend upon the preaching of the gospel entirely, exclusively, by the labours of those engaged in our Christian Instruction society. I am persuaded that institutions of this description deserve, and I doubt not that they will realise their deserts as the public mind becomes more enlightened and more powerfully influenced—that they deserve to take a deeper hold upon the Christian sympathies of a Christian people; and as this institution—I might name others, but I name this in particular—is so entirely unfettered by anything that can by possibility be denominated ecclesiastical restraint, going forth in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free to convert the world, so I believe it is most eminently fitted to perform that work which is required to be performed, in order to reclaim a neglected population. I do, therefore, venture to speak to-night the language of encouragement to all those who are the agents of the Christian Instruction society, or of the associations which are connected with this institution. It is a blessed work in which you are engaged; and if you go to that work in its own spirit, the spirit of Christ, you cannot labour for any length of time without experiencing a measure at least of the divine blessing. But it is not a cursory visit by a minister of the gospel—it is not the act of delivering a Christian tract, however excellent that tract may be—it is not speaking a few words of kindness, however suitable they may be, to those who seem neglected, perhaps on account of their vices, by their fellow-creatures, that will accomplish the highest offices of the work which Divine Providence has assigned to you. You must go with a determination to preach Christ to them—to speak of a Saviour's love that you have felt thrilling your own bosoms. Thus, not only will your hearts be interested in the work in which you are engaged, but there will of necessity be a hue of benevolence thrown into your countenances, that will make you more fitting instruments in the hand of God for conveying the blessed message of the gospel to your fellow men [cheers]. I am sure our friend Stovel, notwithstanding what he said of tact, did not mean to say that the human passions, and human feelings, and all that is human about us, ought not, in connexion with a dependence on divine influence, to be brought to bear on all our efforts, whether as ministers or as private Christians, to carry out God's gracious purposes towards the world [hear, hear]. I regret that you did not hear our friend—that you did not suffer him to explain his views. It is a very serious thing for a Christian minister to be misrepresented, on an occasion like the present. He may not care much for the opinion of the world; but the opinion of Christian people will ever be dear to his heart [hear]. I did not myself understand him, and I was anxious to do so; for he is a very clear-headed man, and always speaks to the point [laughter]. I did not understand what it was that we were to fling away. It was not our infant baptism, surely; that, I am sure, he did not mean. Did he refer to baptismal regeneration? I will take upon myself to state that, however zealous our baptist brethren may be on this subject, they are not a whit more zealous than the independents [hear, hear]. We repudiate, to its heart's core, that most hideous of all errors—the doctrine of the *opus operatum* of the sacraments, by which the administration of an external rite, such as that of baptism, whether administered to an infant or an adult, is supposed to affect the spiritual standing of man [cheers]. As I feel confident that my brother did not mean to utter these things, I trust that he will be allowed to state his meaning, that we may not go away under a wrong impression.

Mr STOVEL explained, that what he meant to say was, that the advocates of an error which all agreed was most fatal to their interests, occupied a position which required from them an answer; which position was given in the "Oxford Tracts," and which he had endeavoured to explain in a letter, addressed to them as a body. He said—"Do not give up your infant baptism, unless you are convinced that you are wrong; hold to it as you would hold to your lives." He did not mean to introduce the discussion of the right or wrong of that question; but he only meant to say on the general question, that there was a position which they were bound to meet; and he hoped they would meet it most triumphantly.

The Rev. T. ARCHER, in rising to second the resolution, said—The point to which I would direct the attention of this meeting is, the adaptation of the agency of this society to the great purpose for which it has been put in operation. We are often told, in regard to the agency of this society, that it is open to many serious objections. No one, at least, can object to any want of head among its agents. I don't wish to underrate the intelligence of Oxford or its students; but this I am bound to say, that among the 2,000 agents of your society there is as much vigour of mind, as much of vast and comprehensive thought, as distinct a perception of truth, as the students of Cambridge and Oxford have among them. I do not think the agents are to be objected to on account of want of piety. We read in the papers, last week, of the renewal of those scenes which we hoped had been banished from society—I mean pugilistic encounters. I do not know whether Mr Blackburn, or Mr Pitman, or the committee as a body, issued any mandate to their agents not to attend—whether they sent any proctor to them, to tell them that they must not go; but I know

that the command went out to the undergraduates at Oxford that they should not attend; and I know it is said that some proctors were there, to see if any of the *alumni* were breaking the command; and it has been said (perhaps not truly), that they kept their eyes so firmly fixed on the combatants, that they lost sight of those of whom they went in search. These were not the agents of the Christian Instruction society. Neither can it be said, that we have not the means of teaching and instructing the mass of unreclaimed heathen in this country. The bible is not yet locked up at Oxford; there is not yet a seal and a chain put upon it; it is still free. Oh! thank God for it and not them. It may be true, that our agents are not schooled in papistic lore, and some would account that no great loss after all; but in the knowledge of scriptural truth, in the understanding of the great doctrines of the word of God, they are as fully instructed as any men, and why should they go to the muddy stream, when they can go to the pure fountain itself, freely welling out? But we are told, that our agency is not dignified, not respectable. Our agents are workmen, handicraftsmen, clerks in warehouses, and young men engaged in business; and it is not respectable that they should be employed in teaching the young, or in teaching any class of the people. There is no Christian man present, but must have a different standard of respectability [hear, hear]. Our standard of respectability is principle, morality, piety. Where these are found, there is the true respectability, the true hierarchy; and where these are wanting, there may be the attributes of worldly wealth and power, but respectability there is none. We have just the kind of agency which is suited to the work, and which is most calculated to excite the sympathies of the people. A clergyman in canonicals would be rather out of place in the hovels of St Giles's or Whitechapel: but a poor working man, who saves a few hours from the day's labour, and devotes these to the service of his brethren in the lowest class of life, will be likely to reach their hearts, and to touch their sympathies. It is true, that the agents of this society are, many of them, in the humble walks of life. Some may be journey-men, and some young masters, and some apprentices—some may be shoemakers, and some tailors; but Peter was a fisherman, Matthew was a tax gatherer, and he, whose name we are bound to adore, was the son of a carpenter, and himself one [hear, hear]. It is true, that our agents have not been to Oxford or Cambridge, perhaps not even to Highbury; but still we must remember, that they have never been to Almack's or to Crockford's. They have studied in a nobler school, the school of Christ, and have received a nobler teaching, the teaching of the Holy Spirit. It is true, that they may talk ungrammatically, and sometimes do such violence to the mother-tongue as to make the bones of Lindley Murray start in their resting place; but I have still to learn, that truth, when spoken ungrammatically, is not better than error when dressed in fine sophism. These, then, are our defences; and upon these grounds we may take our stand. But we can take our stand on yet surer ground. They tell me how undignified it is to publish the gospel in the streets of this great metropolis, while the shores of Tiberias were crowded with thousands listening to the voice of the Son of God [hear, hear]. I have witnessed in my own father-land scenes that would put to the blush all such objectors; thousands of grey-headed fathers assembled in the midst of a forest, the mountains rising before them, and a flowing stream in view, whilst, as there mingled in one volume the tremulousness of old age and the vigour of early life, and the united sound wafted to God the grateful incense of grateful hearts; all have seemed to be thrilling with love to that Saviour whose servant stood before them, in his dignified and venerable character, proclaiming the words of eternal truth, and they have parted to meet only in another and more solemn assembly. The recollection of these scenes will, I believe, never be effaced from my memory; and shall I be told, with such associations in my mind, that to preach in streets or byways is degrading? You may tell that there was physical grandeur there, and natural sublimity; but that was not the attraction; the attraction was, the moral, the spiritual, the eternal interest—the fact that souls were assembled beneath the canopy of heaven to listen to the voice of heaven's servant. And sure I am that while some caricature these meetings, and say, "There behold the stupid insensible drunkard, there the sneer curling upon the lip," we can point to the sinner alarmed, the sceptic turning pale, and the arrow shot at a venture piercing the heart, and there sticking, till extracted by the hand of the great Physician, who alone can staunch the bleeding wound [cheers]. Far from being undignified, such meetings assimilate us more closely to our great Master, who, in this respect, was our great example. These things urge me to give my adherence to this society. I wish it God speed; and, above all, now, in these days of monstrous pretension, on the right hand and on the left, and when we are so hemmed in and pressed with antagonist views. I will not now speak of popery; although I believe that it occupies a higher vantage ground than it ever did before—although I believe that it has more adherents now than it had before the reformation; and I cannot but admire the policy of that church, which is going to our colonies, and laying there the foundation of a vast colossal system. I will not speak of socialism, which Mr Ainslie has done so much from the platform to put down—I will not speak of these things; I will just refer to one topic, and that is, the errors of Puseyism. If we imagine that it is by a few sermons, or by a few pamphlets, or by large folios, that Puseyism may be destroyed, we labour under a grievous mistake. I believe that there is a grandeur of outline about that system which is calculated to captivate and deceive the British nation. There is something about it which is fitted for popularity. Go to a man who has no piety—tell him that you are the successors of the apostles, and you make that man perfectly satisfied to rest in your statements. There is something in sacramental efficacy, and in the priestly character, which is sufficient to exalt them, and give them power over the minds of the people. The only way, then, to meet the evil is by inoculating the public mind with the principles of vital Christianity. Do that, and Puseyism cannot prevail. Allow me to use one figure, in conclusion, to illustrate my view of our position at the present time. A ship is floating on the mighty waters, freighted with provisions for a distant continent, the inhabitants of which are starving. Every gale is favourable, and the vessel is proceeding as quietly as can be desired. But, in the meantime, a storm has arisen, and the wild waves dash against her sides; and, to add to the danger of the crew, the ship is discovered to be on fire. The waves form a trough which reflects a sheet of flame, and every moment may be expected to determine the fate of the crew. In the meantime,



whilst there is danger without and danger within, the crew are quarrelling amongst themselves. Amid the curling of the flames and the roar of the tempest, you hear the shouts of blasphemy, oaths, and reproaches. Who would pity them, if the ship sunk and engulfed them? Who would not say that it was the result of their suicidal folly, and base desertion of the interests of those for whose sustenance they were entrusted with food? The church is that ship, and wherever you go, storms and breakers are ahead and around; and while every moment is threatening to sink the vessel, which is freighted with the word of eternal truth for multitudes of perishing men, we are quarrelling about our Shibboleths. If, under such circumstances, God left the church to herself, and said to her, "You shall perish," we ought to perish unpitied by angels, as well as those who have preceded us in the work. Let us, then, endeavour to catch every breeze, and look up to the spirits before the throne to send us unity in place of discord, and a life-giving power which shall reach to the most distant shores and continents of our world [cheers].

The officers of the society for the ensuing year were then appointed, and the meeting separated.

#### BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held on Wednesday last, at Exeter hall. On the platform were, the Bishops of Chester, Winchester, Norwich, and Worcester, the Marquis of Cholmondeley, the Earl of Harrowby, the Earl of Chichester, Lord Glenelg, Lord Teignmouth, Lord Sandon, Sir T. Dyke Acland, Bart., M.P., &c. &c. The chair was taken by the president, Lord BEXLEY, who called upon the secretary for the report.

The Rev. A. BRANDRAM then read that document, which gave an interesting sketch of the society's operations during the past year. The total amount received during the year, applicable to the general objects of the society, including subscriptions, donations, legacies, dividends on stock, and contributions of auxiliary societies, is 44,045*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, showing an increase of 1,300*l.* 17*s.*; amount received from sales of bibles and testaments, 50,204*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*; total amount received from all sources, 95,095*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* The issues of the society have been 815,551; and the total issues of bibles and testaments since the commencement of the society, 14,038,934.

The Bishop of CHESTER moved the first resolution, That the report be received and printed; and observed that, gratified as he had been in listening to the report which had just been read, if anything could have added to the interest with which he had regarded it, it would have been its being accompanied by the report which was read thirty-eight years ago, so that, by way of contrast, they might judge of the measure of success granted to this society.

I would go back to the time when the demand of this country for printing the scriptures was satisfied by 20,000 or 30,000 copies in a year—when throughout the Roman catholic population of Ireland, the scriptures were an unknown book—when, with regard to the principality of Wales, it was hopeless to procure a single copy—when you might go over the greater part of the continent of Europe, and scarcely find a copy of the scriptures to be procured, even at the largest price—when there were but thirty-seven translations of the scriptures into foreign languages, and most of those chiefly confined to the knowledge of the curious. In this way would I meet the objections which we sometimes hear against the constitution and plans of this society.

Now they had 137 translations, had circulated 14 millions of copies, and had more than 7000 kindred institutions. He thought this success was a proof that the work received the favour and blessing of God. There was another point on which many excellent men had differed from the society, and refused to lend their aid, and that was dissatisfaction with the correctness of their versions. To this he would reply by a question.

Have these versions the effect which the scriptures ought to have? Do they transform the characters of men—are they found to convey the way of salvation through Christ Jesus in such a manner that they who read them will learn that way and follow it? We cannot read the records of this society without finding numerous instances of this sort; and therefore I say, why should we perplex and trouble the committee with questions of this kind? Let us not lay a yoke on them, but let us gladly join in circulating these versions, the best we can procure, trusting that he who has hitherto blessed them, and by whom alone they can be made a blessing, will continue to carry home that word to the hearts of all to whom it is sent.

It was a great comfort to reflect that they could not proceed one step except as God led them by the hand. It was competent to the society to translate the bible and send it out, but they could not incline the people's hearts to assist. He concluded by expressing his earnest wish that, as it was a bible society for the world, so it might be the bible society of the world.

Lord GLENELG seconded the resolution in a brief speech.

Lord SANDON moved the second resolution:—

"That, in many of the facts related in the report just received, this meeting thankfully recognise great encouragements to perseverance in the Society's labours, as also many striking evidences of the necessity and importance of those labours; and that, while they desire to ascribe all praise to Him alone, by whom their work has been prospered, they would at the same time call upon one another, in a cheerful dependence on His continued favour, to proceed in their task of spreading the scriptures to the utmost limits of the world."

It might strike the meeting in a painful manner, to observe that there was an apparent falling off in one portion of the society's resources, or rather, he might more truly say, its expenditure. There was apparently a diminished sum, arising from the sale of the scriptures; but, when they considered that that arose from the increased numbers of those cheap editions of the scriptures furnished to the humbler classes of society, that fact, instead of depressing, ought rather to cause rejoicing [cheers]. And if, in any way, they could recruit the finances of the society, by putting a little more burden on the more expensive editions of the scriptures, he thought they would do well to do so; for he was quite sure, that no trifling difference of expense would deter any man who had the means to furnish himself with a copy of the scriptures, from providing himself with it. They should keep constantly in view the providing copies of the scriptures at the cheapest rate to those who had the least means of procuring them for themselves [cheers]. He rejoiced to find, that, notwithstanding the various trials and discouragements to which the society had been exposed, its means remained unimpaired, and that they might go away from that meeting, cheered on in the path which they

had hitherto pursued, and which alone they believed to be capable of evangelising the world [cheers].

The Rev. Dr VAUGHAN, in seconding the resolution, said—The constitution and object of the British and Foreign Bible society must be good, unceasingly good. It is now, as we have heard, nearly forty years since its attractions were such as to bring together some thousands of Christians, of different religious connexions, all to express their approval of this object, and of the means by which it was to be realised. And we find that, after that long interval, the object has lost nothing of its attraction; and it is but fair to conclude from this fact that the object it proposes is a good one, and that the ground-work upon which it rests is good. Forty years in these latter times, it must be remembered, are found to carry with them changes perhaps as numerous and striking as would be found in some 400 years, in many other periods of time. How changed has been the face of Europe during that interval! Once and again we see that sovereignties, and dynasties, and people have gone, as it were, round and round, or have rushed onward under the influence of impulses which seemed to have allowed them no rest. And, though it is so, that the whirl or rush of these changes has been made to pass by our own country rather than fall upon it, yet who need be reminded of the changes that have come to pass among ourselves during that period?—changes seen in the vast multiplication of our numbers, in the new complexion and spirit which have been given to not a few of our associations, especially in new modes and objects which tend to characterise multitudes of men amongst us; and last, not least, in the altered state—in the degree of temper, and of influence, and of relations between the different religious parties; yet, amidst all these changes, with scarcely anything left as it was, we find the Bible society is as it was. With respect to our foreign relations, the old has passed away, and the new has come wonderfully into its place; but the Bible society goes abroad with no new aspect. In our own dominions scarcely anything remains precisely as it was when looked upon only a generation ago; but the Bible society remains the same. Why? If experience is good for anything, it would surely seem that the time had arrived when we might speak of the British and Foreign Bible society as having been weighed in the balances of time, and as not found wanting [cheers]. She has gone through the process of the experiment, and the result has been that the institution has come forth as gold—as gold, I mean, in relation to its simple but magnificent object, and in relation to the principle on which it is founded. It is refreshing, in a world where we have to mark so much as indicating the infirmities attaching to human contrivances, to see that there is at least something on which the eye can fix that carries with it a spirit of permanence. It is permitted to the imagination to be interested in objects that have in them those elements of duration which seem, as it were, to lift their heads aloft like the everlasting hills above the frail and perishing everywhere around them [hear, hear]. Our Society partakes, under the blessing of God, of something of this character; but the question naturally arises, how are we to account for this? Whence the stability that is found to attach to the Bible society, amidst such a want of stability almost everywhere else? How comes it, that we meet with the fixed, the unalterable, to so great a degree here, amidst the frailty and the passing away of so much besides? Did those good men, whose names are connected with the early history of this Society, foresee all this, and provide for it accordingly? We think not. Or did they take the part that they did in relation to this object under the influence of a blind chance, in something of the manner of lucky accident? We think not. The history of science is the history of discovery; and my belief in the providence of God, in respect to the affairs of men, is of that nature to teach me to be persuaded that each discovery has come in its right place and at its right time. The ancient Babylonians were within a hair's breadth of the discovery of printing. The bricks of which their walls and colossal structures were formed, were printed bricks, as our books are printed books; the only difference being that they were printed with hollow types, while we print with projecting types. The slightest conceivable movement of thought would have been enough to have placed the printing press side by side with the far-famed looms of Babylon. But the time had not come for the printing press, and that slight movement of thought, accordingly, was not to be made till thousands of years afterwards [cheers]. The same might be said, in effect, concerning the history of the loadstone; and something very like it with respect to the discovery of the pendulum, and the great law of gravitation. These things have bubbled up, as it were, to the notice of men; they have come upon them unawares; they have been found by those who sought them not, and that not until the fitting season arrived. They were among the secrets of nature veiled by the Omniscient, and, when the season came, the invisible hand removed the veil, and sent the discovery forth to do its work among men [cheers]. What these discoveries have been in relation to history and to science, I regard the institution of the Bible society as being in respect to religion. It came in its right time and in its right place. The men whose minds first became familiar with the idea of it, little thought how much of treasure there was in it. The simple idea—indeed, all the greater thoughts of men are simple [hear, hear]—was remarkable for the simplicity and felicity of it; viz., that all Christians might combine together for the purpose of diffusing the book in respect to which all Christians were agreed. The rudiments of thought, or of discovery, come in their time; the developments of these things come in their time. We are permitted to possess ourselves of truth, and of the bearing of truth, by little and little, as we are able to bear it. And thus it has been, that what comes without observation, has opened in its expansive power, and shown its application by degrees, in a manner strikingly in harmony with all that is beautiful in the nature by which we are surrounded, and the providence by which we are encircled [cheers]. It is interesting to look at the Bible society in this view, and to be able to feel, that, as in that solitary bible, which the young monk discovered some three centuries ago in a cloister, there was virtually lodged all the mighty changes involved in the protestant reformation; so in that simple idea which we have embodied in this society, there was lodged the influence which was to effect a combination of Christians for a Christian object, such as the church had never witnessed before; and to effect an impression upon the nations of the earth in favour of Christianity, such as had never gone forth from one point before [cheers]. It tells us to cherish simple



thoughts; it bids us to husband the seeds of ideas that appear to carry in them the elements of good to man, and of glory to God [cheers]. I would only just add to these brief observations, that if the time has ever been, in connexion with the history of this society, when its friends should be combined, and be steadfast and unmovable, that time is now. We have lived to see the claims of that volume, as we think, assailed most unjustly and most ungratefully; and it is ours to look at it, exposed to its special peril, with the feeling of our special solicitude. If the past has anything to teach us as the result of experience on this subject, it will teach us that to keep the bible from corruption by the few you must put it into the hands of the many [cheers]. Opinions go upward; fashions may come downward. Refined speculations may belong to a few who are capable of refined speculation; but the broad sentiments that relate to the propositions of truth—to the sympathies with goodness—these are diffused by our common Father widely over the human family [cheers]. The learned have their work to perform in relation to the bible; but the unlearned have their work to perform, in relation to it, quite as much; and the will of its Divine Author, in respect to its purity and power in the earth, is to be carried into effect, not by the one or the other alone, but by the combination of them both [cheers]. In the facts that are referred to in this resolution as having come before us in the report that has been read, there is enough, indeed, to afford to us the greatest encouragement; and I trust that we shall all have felt encouraged to-day by what we have listened to from the lips of the reverend prelate who has addressed this meeting. My heart vibrated strongly with the nobleness of thought and feeling that breathed, all circumstances considered, in connexion with the sentiments to which that esteemed prelate gave utterance. If the Bible society had done nothing for the heathen world; if the Bible society had done nothing for the myriads it has blessed, by sending to them the sacred volume, it has done no mean thing in calling into existence such a sight as we witness this day, mingling thought and feeling in relation to our common Christianity [cheers].

The Rev. Dr GUNN, from America, in supporting the resolution, said he was always ready to take the strongest ground on this subject. God gave him the bible, before man gave him his birth; and never, till his heart should cease to feel for earth and earth's necessities, could he cease to bless that living God for the single glorious privilege of holding an unchained and unveiled bible [loud cheers]. Apostles went out untitled, unbefitted, and calumniated; but they were the conquerors of earth, because they were faithful to heaven. Because they stood by the bible, and the bible alone, God made them mighty through his power to the destruction of the powers of darkness. And when the influence of evil enslaved the world once more, and man's depravity overwhelmed in darkness the light of God's truth, then again, apostles once more conquered the earth, by the simple instrumentality of the word of God. If the scene was to be enacted again, give them the sword of the Spirit and they would conquer the world a third time. The Saviour who gave the bible would conquer by the bible, when reason and man's philosophy had sunk into the darkness they deserved [cheers]. A large number of British emigrants were constantly settling in America; and he trusted that this society would feel the importance of supplying them with the bible. If the society would undertake it, agents should be found in America who would visit every emigrant ship, and take care that no man landed without a bible in his hand. He was fully persuaded that on both sides the Atlantic they stood on the margin of a serious conflict. The enemy could only be put down by extreme difficulty and great decision. If the meeting knew the number of dollars that were sent from papal Europe to America to scatter the evil seeds of popery, they would feel the greatness of the difficulties which they had to encounter [hear, hear]. There were, however, thousands in that country who were ready to render themselves up a sacrifice on the faith of Christ, rather than yield one single inch to their adversaries [hear, hear]. If the conflict was to take place, the circulation of the word of God was the grand instrument of success. Protestant Britain, in its influence upon the world, and in the power which it was to exercise and the work it was to accomplish, was to be understood as including the western limits of the colonies, whether those colonies were still in the nest unfledged, or whether, having grown to maturity, they had taken a flight for themselves, emulating in some degree the noble example of the parent bird. Let Britain ever stand to the country which had proceeded from her, using her power and her strength to uphold the principles of truth and the principles of the British reformation [loud cheers].

The resolution was then put and agreed to.

The Rev. Mr WAUGH rose to move—

"That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Right Hon. the President, the Right Reverend, Right Hon., and others, the Vice-Presidents, for their continued patronage and support."

He regarded the Bible society as the most sacred institution on earth. To circulate God's sacred word, pure and unsullied, and to send it as a messenger of mercy to the perishing millions of the human race. He was aware that objections had been started against some of the translations which had gone out from the society; but who did not thank God even for the feeblest of them? There were various reasons why he felt personally grateful to those who had patronised and carried on the undertakings connected with the Bible society's labours. What a mighty engine this institution was in aiding missionary societies in spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth! He felt a deep interest in education, and great was the debt which education owed to the Bible society. There were some who thought that the bible alone could do but little. Far be it from him to undervalue Christian institutions, or to set light by the Christian ministry; but there had been instances in which God's word alone had accomplished God's own work.

The Hon. and Rev. — VILLIERS, in seconding the foregoing resolution said, it was not by forms and ceremonies, but by God's word alone, that sinners were to be "turned from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God." It had been said that it was only some who had a right to interpret the word of God; but he found the Bereans commended because they searched the scriptures—when, not their successors, but the apostles themselves preached [cheers]. He could not understand how he was to boast in apostolic succession, if he did not endeavour to carry out the apostles' intentions [cheers]. The English church had not forgotten its duty; there might be some who had gone out of it, because they were not of it [cheers]. The

church was willing to bear their loss. He spoke that not in bitterness, or in want of charity. He attributed no unworthy motives to the parties; but they must speak firmly and faithfully, and cleave to the word of God. Though a host of enemies should be against them, yet, trusting in that word, they would not fear [cheers]. As a churchman, a philanthropist, and a Christian, he loved this society, and would render to it his support [applause].

The Rev. M. PRITCHARD, missionary from the South sea islands, moved—

"That the thanks of this meeting be given to the treasurer and the committee, for their attention in conducting the concerns of the society; that the treasurer be requested to continue his services; and that the following gentlemen be the committee for the ensuing year, with power to fill up vacancies." (Names read.)

Having spent about seventeen years in the South Seas, he could bear testimony to the great blessings conferred by this society on that part of the world. For many years, grants of paper were made by the society to the missionaries, who were thus enabled to put into the hands of the natives portions of scripture as fast as they could translate them; and those small portions had proved exceedingly beneficial, and had issued in the conversion of many to the Lord [cheers]. He could not fully describe to the meeting the joy produced in the hearts of the South sea islanders, when it was announced to them that the whole of the sacred volume was completed, or the intense anxiety with which they awaited the arrival of the 3000 volumes sent by this society. One volume belonging to the lamented Mr Williams, which he (Mr P.) had in his possession, was eagerly solicited by one and another, and perused with the greatest delight. He (Mr P.) had been frequently solicited by the natives, when an English ship arrived in the harbour, to go on board to see if their bibles were there. And not only were they anxious to possess the sacred volume, but also to understand its contents. Hence, soon after daylight, it was their habit to assemble in classes, with Queen Pomare and her husband and other members of the royal family, to read the bible. They were also constantly coming to the missionaries, with passages marked, to ask for explanation and instruction. The rev. gentleman then alluded to the success of the gospel in several of the islands of the South Seas, where the people had been led to forsake their idols, and to worship the true God in spirit and in truth.

The Rev. Mr VERUGISLEC, from Prussia, and the Rev. Mr MESTRIER, from Switzerland, briefly supported the resolution.

The Bishop of WORCESTER moved the thanks of the meeting to the Chairman, which was seconded by Sir T. D. ACKLAND, Bart, and the meeting separated.

#### LONDON CITY MISSION.

The anniversary of this society was held on Thursday last, in Exeter hall, and was most numerous and respectfully attended. On the platform were the Rev. Baptist Noel; the Rev. Dr Byrth; the Rev. Thomas Mortimer; the Rev. Dr Jenkin, president of Coward college; the Rev. Dr Bunting; the Rev. Thomas Archer; the Rev. Carr Glynn; Sir John Wathen Waller, Bart; the Rev. Ridley Herschel, &c. &c. On account of the unavoidable absence of J. P. Plumptre, Esq., who was to have presided, E. N. Buxton, Esq. occupied the chair. The business of the day was commenced by singing a hymn, and by prayer offered up by the Rev. Mr Garwood.

The CHAIRMAN then said, he had the honour of having been connected with this society from its commencement; and notwithstanding all the difficulties it had experienced, all the attacks which had been made upon it, all the desertion from its ranks which had taken place—notwithstanding the occasional deficiencies in the amount of its finances, he was happy to say they came before the meeting to-day enabled to state, that the society was never more prosperous, never so useful, as it was at the present time. He should not enlarge upon the objects of the society, and the results which had been achieved, because the meeting would hear the details in the report of the committee for the past year, which was about to be brought under the notice of the meeting. There was, however, one point to which he could not avoid alluding. Last year, it would be remembered, they had been told that circumstances had compelled the committee to reduce the number of the society's agents, but this year he rejoiced to say the number had been increased from fifty-two to sixty-one; and what was still more satisfactory to him, every farthing necessary for the maintenance of these additional missionaries had been guaranteed by those who had asked for them [loud applause]. This was not all; for at the present moment the committee had a demand for seven additional agents, and they were waiting, not for money, but only until they could find suitable persons to appoint to that responsible and laborious office. Great as had been the increase in the strength of the society, he sincerely hoped ere they met again a still further increase would have taken place. With regard to the funds he had the satisfaction of announcing to the meeting, that though last year there had been an increase in the amount to the extent of nearly £900, the funds had this year increased over the amount of the preceding year by nearly £700 [loud and general applause]. Of the utility of the society, connected as he was with a district (Spitalfields) in which the dense population were in as great darkness as the heathens of a Pagan land, he could speak in terms of the highest praise. It was the bounden duty of all Christians to make every effort to maintain the society in the high position it already occupied. He should not detain the meeting further, but would now call upon the Rev. Mr Ainslie to read the report.

The Rev. Mr AINSLIE then proceeded to read the report, which detailed facts of a deeply interesting character, and at the same time communicated to the world statistical information of a highly important character. After describing the general state of religious and moral destitution which prevailed in numerous districts of the metropolis, the report instanced the circumstances of one locality in the city of Westminster. In that district there were 120 houses occupied by 708 families, all of them visited by the Society's missionary; in those houses there were 174 rooms occupied by females devoted to public vice; 290 occupied by common beggars; and 190 by huxters who obtained a livelihood by selling fruit and other articles in the streets, and to all of whom the Sabbath was unknown for the purposes of religion. In this district during the past year the society's missionary had made no less than 6,554 visits; had distributed 5,390 religious tracts, and eleven copies of the Scriptures,



and had brought 158 children to attend the schools. He had also held 108 meetings for reading the Holy Scriptures; ninety-eight backsliders had been outwardly reformed, and seven persons had passed, through his instrumentality, from death unto life. On the subject of Sunday taverns the report stated that the magistrates had listened to the representations made by the society, and in public court had solemnly declared that the licenses would be refused if those houses were made as formerly, the prime haunts of Sunday desecration. This has been endorsed by the chairman upon the licenses, and the proprietors of these houses had promised to attend to the injunction; a promise which, with very few exceptions, had been fulfilled. The report went on to observe that the committee would not let this matter rest; and that before the next licensing day they would collect further information, and prevent the continuance of an evil so prejudicial to the comfort and happiness of all classes of society. It was next stated, that a missionary had been appointed to visit persons of the Jewish faith; and two deeply interesting instances were narrated of two individuals, one a blasphemer and the other an atheist, who, by the efforts of the missionary, had been brought to the conviction that Jesus Christ was the Messiah. It was then stated that no less than 120 districts of the metropolis were visited by the agents and missionaries of this society; and it was with deep gratitude to Almighty God, that with reference to the last year the committee were enabled to report that in every department its usefulness had been the most prosperous in the history of the mission. For an interesting detail of some of the labours of the society the report referred to the contents of the *London City Mission Magazine* for February last, and then proceeded to narrate several striking incidents and scenes witnessed during the past year by the missionaries of the society, and to detail numerous instances of drunkards reclaimed, of blasphemers and sabbath-breakers brought to the knowledge of the Redeemer, of backsliders restored, of infants, otherwise entirely neglected, being brought up in religion by the meritorious and indefatigable exertions of the missionaries of this society. It was further stated, that in the past year 6,577 meetings had been held for prayer and the expounding of the Scriptures; 3,616 religious tracts, and 1,066 copies of the Scriptures had been distributed, and 1,536 persons had been induced to attend public worship. The total number of visits made to the poor by the missionaries in the various districts amounted to 289,924. With respect to the state of the funds, the report acknowledged with gratitude the liberality of the bankers of the society, Messrs Barnett and Co., in making advances at certain periods of the year, and then announced that the net income for the last year had been £4,831 4s. 9½d., being an increase on the former year of £934 3s. 2½d., and that the net income for the present year was £5,534 18s. 11½d., being an increase of £712 4s. 9½d., and leaving a balance in the hands of the treasurer of about £370.

The Rev. THOMAS MORTIMER moved the first resolution, and said he never remembered hearing a report more deeply and cuttingly interesting than that which the meeting had just heard read, and he pitied the man who had listened to it and could say, "I will have nothing to do with the London City Mission" [loud applause]. He himself came before the meeting with shame that he had not been, as he ought to have been, one of the first to join this society, having been for so many years the lecturer in that immense parish of Shoreditch, which contained 53,000 souls, and had only one church. Knowing that he ought to have been one of the first to join the City Mission, he was ashamed to say, he had been the last. But by God's help he would now try what he could do for the benefit of this society, which had already worked so much good, and if he could not preach for it in his own chapel, he would do so in the open air [applause].

The Rev. Dr JENKIN, in seconding the resolution, eulogised in energetic terms the report which had just been read, and bore his testimony to the beneficial effects which, to his own knowledge, had been produced by the exertions and labours of this society. He rejoiced in the union which this society exhibited of all classes of Christians—all devoted to the common cause of advancing the kingdom of Christ. After an able and eloquent address, the rev. gentleman exhorted all who heard him to active exertion, and recommended them to adopt the motto of the Saviour, "I must work while it is day, for the night cometh, when no man can work."

The Rev. Dr BUNTING, having been called upon to support the resolution, said he was taken by surprise, as the application which had been made to him was merely to bear his testimony to the claims which this society had upon the support of the British Christian public. He was satisfied that the persons who conducted the business of the society were acting upon principles which ought to command the approbation and the warmest sympathy of the nation at large. He had the highest satisfaction in bearing his humble testimony to the merits and claims of this society. He wished he possessed more eloquence to plead its cause, and more of leisure and opportunity to take an active part in carrying on its proceedings. The society had his warmest approbation and his earnest prayers; he watched its proceedings with the deepest interest, and with thankfulness to Almighty God that such agency was at work in a place and for objects which demanded the utmost activity [great applause].

The Hon. and Rev. BAPTIST NOEL, in a speech of great eloquence, which proclaimed the vast utility of this society, moved the adoption of the second resolution.

The Rev. THOMAS ARCHER, in seconding the resolution, animadverted in glowing terms upon the success with which the society and its agents had—especially the secretary, the Rev. Mr Ainslie—combated against socialism, which, with popery, formed only a part of the phalanx of evils with which, in the present day, Christianity had to contend. Popery was a formidable foe, which, while protestantism was talking against the church of Rome, was working silently under ground, and infusing spirit into the passions of men. They had no defection from their ranks—there was perfect unity in their hostility to all true Christian principles. But there was still another foe to Christianity, which lurked even amongst some of the members of the church of England, and he dared not conceal from himself that this foe was even more formidable than popery itself. Yes, the demi-semi-popery of Oxford was more dangerous than rank and undisguised popery [loud applause]. These were causes which ought to stimulate unity of exertion amongst all denominations of protestants—alone no single denomination could roll back the tide which was thus over-

flowing. The church itself, without the assistance of the dissenting body, could never stem the torrent, neither could protestant dissent weather the storm—both must stand hand to hand, heart to heart, in order to triumph [loud applause]. This society, then, united all denominations in Christian charity and love, and in these terms especially demanded the cordial co-operation and support of all denominations of the protestant portion of the realm. After some further remarks in favour of the principles and objects of the society, the rev. speaker concluded by seconding the resolution.

The Rev. CARR GLYNN moved the third resolution, and took occasion to deprecate the Oxford heresy. With respect to this society, it was the scriptural character of its missions, and its strict neutrality as to ecclesiastical polity, that he thanked God for its success. He denied that the object of the society was to bring individuals to any particular denomination of Christianity—it was actuated only by the love of souls, and had nothing whatever to do with adding to any particular section of the church of Christ. In reference to what had fallen from the last speaker, he begged to say, that this was no time for any surrender of principle; and he trusted that all that had been heard that day, and during the week, would send the ministers of Christ back to their respective districts animated with renewed courage to meet the heresy which had already gained some ground.

Sir JOHN WATHEN WALLER, Bart., briefly seconded the resolution, which was passed unanimously.

The Rev. Dr BYRTH (rector of Wallasey, Cheshire) moved the next resolution, and took a review of the principles, objects, and success of the institution, and combated the objections he had heard raised against clergymen of the church of England meeting with ministers of protestant dissent in this cause. Adverting to the growth of Puseyism, he defended his *Alma Mater* from the imputation of having wholly yielded to those pernicious tenets; and contended that the great bulk of the learning, the age, the talent, and the piety of that university were opposed to them. With regard to this society he must say, that he regarded it as an infant Hercules, already strangling the hundred snakes of bigotry and priestcraft; and he could not doubt when it reached to manhood it would strike off head after head from the hydra of superstition; and by the pure stream of the gospel, would cleanse the Augean stable of infidelity from its uncleanness, filth, and impurity.

The Rev. W. E. L. FAULKNER (rector of St James's, Clerkenwell), in seconding the resolution, bore testimony to the zeal, ability, and fidelity of the missionary engaged in the populous district under his charge, and expressed his high approbation of the principles professed and the services performed by the society.

The Rev. RIDLEY HERSCHELL moved, and the Rev. ROBERT AINSLIE seconded, the thanks of the meeting to Edward North Buxton, Esq., for his conduct in the chair. Mr BUXTON returned thanks, and the benediction having been pronounced by the Rev. Mr AINSLIE, the meeting broke up.

#### RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

The anniversary meeting of the Religious Tract society was held in Exeter Hall, on Friday evening last, and was most numerous and respectably attended. The right hon. the Earl of CHICHESTER presided on the occasion, and was supported on the platform by the Rev. Dr Byrth, the Rev. Mr Garwood, the Rev. Robert Monro, the Rev. Francis Cunningham, Mr Henry Pownall, Mr Jones, the Honorary Secretary of the Society, &c., &c. After singing a hymn and prayer by the Rev. Mr Monro,

The CHAIRMAN proceeded to open the business of the evening. Though it had never before been his privilege to advocate the cause of this Society, nor indeed to take any part in its proceedings, or even to have been in communication with those who have its management, still it was an institution which had long been highly valued by him, and whose works in the great vineyard of Christ he had for many years had ample opportunities of observing and of loving. Though for many reasons he was disqualified from being an able or satisfactory advocate of its cause, yet, at all events, he could speak as an honest and observing witness of the fruits of the labours of the Society, of the blessings with which those labours had been attended. It had been his privilege frequently to see those excellent tracts and publications which were sent forth into the world by this admirable institution; it had often been his privilege to observe those publications conducing to the comfort, instruction, and spiritual improvement of many both of the poorer and the wealthier classes of their fellow countrymen. The publications of this institution had often met his eye in the workhouses, and in the prisons of the country, and he sincerely believed there were no works more calculated to instruct men in those things which it behoved them to know—there were no works of a spiritual kind more calculated to be generally useful in teaching men the great truths of their holy religion than those works which had either been reprinted, or edited and originally published by this institution [loud applause]. Not only were the poorer and humbler of their fellow countrymen benefited, but he did not doubt that many of those who now heard him had been enabled, through this Society, to become possessed of copies of the most valuable, most beloved authors; and that thus many in less affluent circumstances were supplied with sound religious instruction and knowledge, which never would have been communicated except through the instrumentality of a society like this. He was thankful to believe, as well from his own judgment, as from the better opinion of others, that the character of the publications of this society was essentially and truly Christian and evangelical [loud and general applause]; that the Society only put forth works which were consistent with the truths of revealed religion, and the great objects of which were the spiritual well-being of their fellow countrymen, and to exalt the glory of their great Lord and Master, and to make known his mercies to all the world [great applause]. He attached, therefore, great value to an institution like this, whose labours and publications formed a great addition to the circulation of the written word of God. He should be most unwilling to detain the meeting by any prolonged remarks in recommending to their favour a Society, than which none was more entitled to their interest and gratitude. Among the many useful societies with which this country abounded, the Religious Tract society stood the foremost of them all, and he confidently believed that there was scarcely an individual present who was not more or less indebted to this institution either for the good it had done to his relations,



his friends, his neighbours, or himself, by its labours and operations. With these feelings he confidently recommended it to the support of the Christian public generally, and with these remarks he would now call upon the Secretary to read the report for the past year [great applause].

The SECRETARY (Mr Jones) then proceeded to read the forty-third annual report, from which it appeared that although the warlike operations in China had somewhat interfered with, it had not stopped, the circulation of the society's publications in that interesting field, where new channels for distribution had been opened, and were prospering under the auspices of the Rev. Mr Gutzlaff. In Aracan 40,000 tracts had been distributed in fifteen days. In India the circulation had been a great means of advancing the kingdom of Christ. In the Mahratta country, Dr. Wilson and Mr Mitchell reported that they found many who had been led into a belief of the Christian faith solely by the perusal of the religious tracts and publications of the society. In Australia and Van Dieman's Land 161,000 publications, value £2,638, had been transmitted and put in circulation. In Western Africa the education of the negroes was rapidly progressing, and letters had been received from the society's missionaries, desiring to be furnished with 2,000 more copies of the Cottage Hymn Book which had been sent out, and another letter received for 3,000 copies more. The whole of the first issue had been purchased by the people in the short space of nine months. The gates of Spanish America were comparatively closed against the admission of scriptural truth, but still 11,600 Spanish publications had been granted to the different correspondents of the society in that quarter. To the West Indies, 55,000 books and tracts, without including publications sent for sale, had been granted. In British North America, 163 religious circulating libraries, valued at £852, had been established, and 206,900 tracts, books, and publications, had been sent out. The intelligence received from Montreal, Quebec, Kingston, and Toronto, was of a most cheering and interesting character. In France the work of the Lord was evidently advancing, though it encountered much opposition. The circulation in France amounted to 600,000 copies. In Hungary, 40,000 copies, printed in the German language, had been distributed. In Belgium the society went on prosperously, though strongly opposed by the priests of the Romish church. The number of new publications during the last year was 220; the total publications was 16,469,551, which, published in eighty-six different languages, gave a total circulation of 357,000,000 different works. The total benevolent income for the year was £5,826, being an increase beyond the preceding year of £164; the total sales of the society's publications was £45,635. The gratuitous issues for the year was £8,329, and the society's total receipts, including the proceeds of sale, was £56,014 18s. 1d.

The Rev. FRANCIS CUNNINGHAM moved the adoption of the report, and said, that when at the request of their excellent secretary he had consented to take any part in which he might be useful to the Religious Tract society, he little thought their excellent friend was about to place him in the position in which he now stood, because he had not felt that his station and circumstances in society were such as to call upon or entitle him to occupy a post which generally was destined for a much higher person than himself, to present the resolution for the printing of the report to the notice of the audience. He, however, felt it to be his duty to obey the call which had been made upon him, and certainly the difficulties of making a speech upon the occasion were greatly lessened by the nature of the object he had to present, for he apprehended the motion he had to make was rather to draw forth from the audience a general expression of gratitude they feel for the successful labours of the committee for the past year. He had to call upon the meeting to assent to the report which had just been read, and which detailed interesting facts which spoke for themselves, and which he was sure would, without any speech from him, call forth their ready assent and highest approbation. But, looking at the society itself, there were many important reasons which must urge every Christian man and every churchman to give to it their most cordial support. The simple fact recorded in the report, that there have been 357 millions of the tracts of the society distributed in eighty-six different languages, alone was sufficient to call forth true feelings of Christian gratitude. Let this fact but speak for itself; let it go forth to any one who loves and values the truth of God, and it seemed to him to be difficult to prevent every one to join heart and hand in the operations of a society which had done such an enormous amount of good to a wretched world [great applause]. And then when they came to consider what the report had brought before them—the vast range of its publications, from the smallest card to the largest volume—he must say, that the ingenuity, industry, and zeal of the committee, called for, and truly deserved, the best thanks, not only of the meeting, but of the community at large [loud applause]. He rejoiced to see the extent to which the society's tracts found their way, as it were, into every crevice of his own parish, not as a substitute for, but in aid of, the holy bible. He would, therefore, say, that the simple fact of this various and varied distribution was of itself amply sufficient to draw forth the gratitude of every Christian mind in this assembly. Every one of the tracts published by the society was a messenger of salvation, pointing out the sinner's guilt, and showing him the only way to escape condemnation. What, then, must be the value of this society? And how strongly these tracts contrasted with others that had been palmed upon the public [hear, hear]! In the tracts of this society was pointed out the way of salvation through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the attainment of that peace of mind which the true Christian alone could enjoy. But in the others, the great doctrine of the atonement was cast into reserve, and those blessed truths which were revealed for the instruction and consolation of men were put out of sight. Nay, more, not only was the grand doctrine of justification by faith put out of sight, but actually put into error; and if we were left to be guided by the tractarians, we should be compelled to go all our days without any of that light and assurance which the gospel conveys to us. Upon this ground, also, he called upon them to support the society. The last topic in the report was popery. At home and abroad popery was spreading; popish bishops, jesuits, and priests, were to be found, not only in our own country, but they had forced their way into the South Sea Islands, New Zealand, and other parts of the world, where God had been manifesting his power in drawing the people out of darkness, and in those places they were doing the greatest mischief [hear, hear]. When he considered what popery was, had been, and

would be—for it was always the same—it would never lose its sting; when he remembered what mischiefs it had brought upon this and other countries, he rejoiced that the tracts of this society were circulated, because they were so many antidotes to the fatal errors of popery. And that was another reason why the society should be supported [hear, hear]. It was true that there would be differences of opinion amongst men upon some points, but those differences did not preclude sincere Christians from uniting to support this society. Whom did the society cast out? Papists, because its tracts point out the only true way of salvation. And Socinians, because its tracts maintained the doctrine of the deity of the Son of God. Who then remained? Those who believed in the common doctrine of justification by faith, those who felt the necessity of preaching the doctrine of the new birth, those who—he might venture to say it, because the articles of the church were printed by the society—held to the doctrines and articles of the church of England, those who could feel themselves much more united as members of this society than they who denied the doctrine of justification by faith, and who taught another gospel, which, indeed, was not the gospel [hear, hear, and applause]. It was a matter of wonder to him how society had gone on of late, and continued to remain unmoved amidst the storms of political strife, the excitement of violent passions, the distresses of the poor, and the embarrassments of their superiors. Some might say, that we owed the preservation of the land from anarchy and ruin to the police, military, and the magistracy. No; it was to the distribution of the Bible, the establishment of schools, and the tracts which this society had sent forth by thousands and by tens of thousands into the cottages and dwellings of the labourer, the garrets and cellars of the poor and the ignorant [hear, hear]. Let them then proceed with their work, remembering that their time was short, their opportunities few, their enemies aggressive, and their responsibilities great. Let them, as far as they possibly could, convey the life-giving truth of God to a perishing world [hear, hear, and applause].

The Rev. Dr RUSSELL, of Dundee, said, that when he considered the nature of the tracts published by the Society, that they were adapted to all the varieties of the human character, and to all the diversity of circumstances amongst the whole family of mankind, that they called upon those who were careless and forgetful of God, that their object was to rouse the unthinking to think and not to torment them before their time—for if there were no hope of mercy it would be kind, perhaps, to let them alone, and to suffer them to enjoy themselves in the best manner they could. When he reflected that these tracts pointed the sinner to a Saviour, proclaimed that an infinite sacrifice had been made for the sins of the world, that the doors of mercy were open to all classes, and to every individual of all classes, when he found that they were calculated to give comfort in life, consolation in distress, and hope in death, when he perceived all this, he said, they were warranted and bound by every principle of humanity and philanthropy, to say nothing of Christian duty, and zeal for the glory of the Redeemer, to take these torches of Divine truth, and to lead the minds of men from one chamber of imagery to another, to exhibit to them all the fearful tortuosities of their nature, to reveal to them the certain fate of those who die in their sins, and to point them to him who "died the just for the unjust," and "ever lives to make intercession for them" [hear]. It was by proclaiming these truths that Luther shook the fabric of Rome to its centre, and affected the minds of multitudes, leading them to see their guilt and danger, and guiding them to Him who is the only "hiding-place from the wind, and covert from the tempest." John Knox did the same; and by the same means alone could we successfully attempt to produce the same results. The Reformers knew the indispensable necessity of a change of heart, and wherever they preached that doctrine God added his blessing. He should be glad to see the writings of the divines of the seventeenth century generally circulated and read, because "there were giants in those days" [hear]. Their writings were distinguished by a pungency of language, a power of argument, a searching spirit, and a graphic execution which arrested the mind and carried conviction to the judgment with a force that was scarcely to be resisted. He rejoiced, however, that such a vast amount of substantial truth had been spread throughout this land and the world by this Society; for great was the truth, and it must prevail. Error might gain partial and temporary victories, but truth must finally triumph. There was a time when the enemies of the gospel sneered at the circulation of religious tracts. But now they were printing and distributing tracts themselves, and with all their might. Why? Because they had discovered that this method of diffusing information was not to be despised, but that it was most efficient [hear]. Whilst they thus gave a testimony to the excellence of the plan, they also furnished an additional reason for renewed exertions and increased liberality on behalf of this Society [hear, hear]. The objection that the circulation of religious tracts would supersede the demand for the Scriptures was unfounded. An agent in France had declared, that for every eight tracts he had sold one copy of the New Testament [hear]. He concluded by seconding the motion, which was agreed to.

The Rev. Dr MORISON, of Brompton, proposed the next resolution:—

"That the meeting heard with satisfaction that the grants made during the past year for the circulation of divine truth among the inhabitants of India and China have amounted to nearly 3,000L., and rejoiced that the Holy Spirit had blessed the society's publications to the turning of many from their idolatries to serve the living and true God."

God had given India to Great Britain, not merely for the purpose of political sovereignty or mercantile aggrandisement, but to carry thither God's saving truth, and to plant there the standard of the Redeemer's cross. Yet how little had been done to reclaim India to the Christian faith. Throughout the three presidencies efforts had been made to unsettle the minds of the European Christians and native converts there by persons belonging to a school, alas, too well known in England; and in contemplating this sad catastrophe he thought the venerated Bishop of Calcutta and other devoted servants who were endeavouring to stem the tide of anti-protestant error which threatened the bulwarks of Christianity in that country, were entitled to our warmest support and faithful prayers [hear, and applause]. Though the Puseyites—they were known by that name there as well as here—were yet but few, the seed they were sowing, their tracts, was evil seed, and no one could calculate the evil fruit they would



produce unless other and purer seed were cast into the field; and he would ask whether, for the sake of our own population, as well as of thousands and hundreds of thousands in other lands, the society might not try to meet the exigency of the times by issuing a series of tracts against Puseyism, written in a manner that would give offence to none who were not so far gone from the truth, that the society need not care to retain them [hear, hear]? As the pestilence was spreading, he thought they were fairly called upon to do something of this kind to guard the nation from falling again into the power of the papacy from which, blessed be God, it had been so long separated [applause].

The Rev. Dr BYRTH said that without wishing to say anything that might savour of dissension, he must venture to differ from the last speaker, because he thought the society ought not to come down from its high elevation of plain and pure truth to enter the arena of controversy; its character would be lost if it once directed its energies in a channel which would only draw greater attention to errors which would be more properly combated in other quarters, and which must, he was convinced, eventually fall before the truth [hear, hear]. Sincerely as he deprecated the deadly influence of tractarianism, and mourned its existence in the bosom of the church to which he belonged, and its emanation from a university of which he was a humble member, he must say that while there were members of the committee and of the society who were fully competent to meet the champions of that novel heresy on their own ground, he would not have the Religious Tract society compromise its high dignity, and descending to lower ground waste its energies in crushing such puny braggarts as the writers of the Oxford Tracts [hear, and applause]. After descending on the immense value of this institution in the cause of Christianity, it being impossible for any human mind to calculate the amount of the blessings it had diffused, the Doctor observed that this was the age of tracts. The age of manuscripts and the age of folios were both past, this age was especially the age of tracts. It had been said, but unwisely, that this proved the superficiality of the present day. He did not think that the most scrutinising criticism of the publications of this society would at all support that assertion, as far as it might be attempted to apply to them, or to the agents and committee of the institution [hear, hear]. Let them pursue that course still, and disperse far and wide sufficient supplies of simple truth to satisfy the cravings of mankind for intellectual and moral worth, and they must have a large share in destroying the serpent-like character of that system which he hoped would always be sufficiently denounced in that hall [applause]. He concluded by seconding the resolution.

The Rev. G. PRITCHARD, from the South Sea islands, spoke in support of the resolution, and related facts in proof of the great service the publications of the society afford to missionaries.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

The Hon. and Rev. B. W. NOEL proposed the third resolution:—

"That the zealous and persevering efforts now made in Great Britain and Ireland, in our colonies, and among many nations, to spread popish and anti-christian principles, are loud and imperative calls on all protestants to promote the widest circulation of the truth as it is in Jesus."

After dilating upon the extensive and varied operations of this society, and the numerous nations in every quarter of the globe to which it had sent messengers of truth, speaking in their own tongues of the way of life and peace to guilty men, the hon. and rev. gentleman, in allusion to the union of persons of different religious denominations in this great work, described it as a union by no means incompatible with the maintenance of their own conscientious opinions, or of the grand and fundamental truths of their common Christianity. We are all agreed (said he) in having the same word of God, in bowing to the same Divine Redeemer, in worshipping the Father by one Mediator and through one Spirit, in leading the forms as well as the primary doctrines of our religion, and in observing the same sacred day of rest and devotion, public and private; all these things are sufficient to mark us as the disciples of the same Saviour, and can we not then be the same in heart as in belief? Can we not be united in works of charity as well as in faith and hope [applause]? We might rejoice, indeed, if all who unite to carry on these great operations were united, too, in external forms, and in particular opinions; but is it not delightful to think that they are carried even on by those who differ [hear, hear]? Is it not, in fact, a great triumph of truth that, with the existence of certain discrepancies, we are yet united in the defence, and maintenance, and promulgation of our common faith, and to promote the glory of our common Saviour [hear, and applause]? Upon the suggestion thrown out by a preceding speaker, the hon. and rev. gentleman said he would give no opinion. But to use a quaint image in speaking of certain tracts, he would not be sorry if some pelting hail-storm were to fall upon and level with the dust those literary wasps [laughter and applause]. Or, to use another comparison, if the Society would circulate widely the light of pure truth, those cold and grim creatures, like the shaggy animal of the north, could not survive the warmth brought to bear upon them, but they and their errors to boot, like the icicle in the sunshine, would melt away and be for ever dissipated [applause]. The suggestion, however, was one worthy of the consideration of the committee [hear].

The Rev. R. MOFFATT seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

H. POWNALL, Esq., in proposing a vote of thanks to the noble earl in the chair, said the society must feel deeply indebted to his lordship for the support he had given to that institution when out of the sight and knowledge of that large assembly. It was one thing to come forward at the harvest-home of a society like this, and to be cheered with the lively countenances of so many friends, and another thing to work privately and unseen, and to carry the publications of the society to the poor and to the miserable, to workhouses and to prisons, which had been the practice of the noble lord [applause]. It was most cheering to see the nobles of the land forgetting their elevation and their coronets, and mingling with others in pursuing the Christian walks of benevolence, and visiting the habitations of the humbler portions of our population. In this way the lustre of a coronet was made to shine with the utmost splendour [hear, hear]. In this way was manifested the vitality of those Christian principles which purify and gladden alike the heart of the noble and the humble; it showed that we all partook of the like blessed faith, that we were fellow-citizens of the same city, and were all traveling to the same home above; and that though here we experienced trials and difficulties,

we were at liberty to anticipate those future joys which, through the Divine Redeemer, are secured for his faithful and believing people [applause].

Sir J. BICKERTON WILLIAMS seconded the motion, which was supported by J. P. PLUMPTRE, Esq., M.P., carried by acclamation, and briefly responded to by the noble earl; and after singing a doxology the meeting broke up.

#### BRITISH AND FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY.

The thirty-seventh annual meeting of the British and Foreign School Society, took place on Monday, in Exeter Hall. The meeting was numerous attended. Lord John Russell presided. On the platform were Lord Worsley, the Bishop of Norwich, Henry Labouchere, Esq., M.P.; William Allen, Esq., the treasurer; the Rev. Mr Burnet; the Rev. Mr Knibb, of Jamaica; John Abel Smith, Esq., M.P.; Edward Baines, Esq.; William Tooke, Esq., &c.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL rose amidst loud cheers. His lordship said that before commencing the proceedings of the day, he might be expected to say a few words on the importance of the object that had called them together, not that it was at all necessary to dilate on the manifold advantages of education, for on that they were all agreed; but it was essential to advert to the general and universal character of that society, which had set up such a noble example in the promotion of education, and, above all, of scriptural instruction [cheers]. They had seen from the commencement, that not only had the society gone on flourishing, but it had furnished hints to other bodies to found similar institutions. The early friends of that society would recollect that at its formation their efforts were met by the cry that the education of the poorer classes was unnecessary, if not mischievous; but the result of their operations no sooner became apparent than the outcry subsided, and their opponents set about following their example, and the consequence was the establishment of the National School Society to aid in the great work of education. The institution of the London University was closely followed by that of King's College, and the publication of the *Penny Magazine* by another periodical of a similar tendency. So that their efforts, which were very much commented upon and opposed at first, were invariably succeeded by others on the part of those who at first resisted them, tending to carry on the same operations with a similar object in view. The British and Foreign School commenced in 1808. The National Society was begun in 1811. They would, therefore, see from that and the other instances to which he had alluded, that exertions made in a right way were never thrown away [hear, hear]. Let them not, then, relax their endeavours to promote the interests of that society, for they were sowing the seeds of other institutions for the benefit of mankind. They had begun their school on the basis that all the children should be instructed in the holy scriptures. Those who had followed their operations had made less progress, because they insisted that certain formularies should be taught the children; the consequence of which was the exclusion—and as he thought the unnecessary exclusion—of large numbers [cheers], who were thus deprived of the benefit of them. It seemed that they were more anxious that they should not become Presbyterians or Dissenters than that they should become Christians [hear, hear]. The want of education throughout the kingdom generally was great and lamentable, as was apparent from the parliamentary reports, particularly the gaol returns, from which it appeared that, in instance after instance, out of a hundred prisoners sixty or seventy were ignorant of the name of God or Jesus Christ. One could not help wondering that such profound ignorance could exist in this country; but they should not confine themselves to wondering—it was their bounden duty to endeavour not to allow such heathenish ignorance to continue [cheers]. Another paper had lately come to light relative to the treatment of children in mines, whose barbarous and intolerable usage, together with the total want of instruction, even in the rudiments of Christian education, was truly astonishing. He trusted that parliament would find a remedy for these evils. He would not detain them longer from the report, but to mention that his brother the Duke of Bedford desired to continue the same annual donation which had been presented by his father [cheers]. He (Lord John Russell) felt the same duty and obligation on him to support the society by every means in his power; and to aid its efforts in promoting the general and scriptural education of the people [loud cheers].

Mr DUNN (the secretary) then read the report, from which it appeared that the society was progressing prosperously. The average attendance of boys in the model school was 682, and of girls 450, making the total number on the books 52,828. The training school was carried on with undiminished efficiency. The new buildings were rapidly approaching completion; but in that fund there was a deficiency of £5,000, for which the committee confidently looked to their friends and the public. In the state of the finances generally there was no ground for discouragement. The expenditure during the past year had been greater than usual, but the subscriptions were great in proportion. There was evidently a wider and deeper interest pervading all classes of society [cheers].

WM. ALLEN, Esq., the treasurer, then read the accounts, from which it appeared that the total receipts during the past year were £7,080 13s. 4d., and the total expenditure, £1,288 2s., leaving a balance in favour of the institution of £48 16s. 11d. [cheers].

HENRY LABOUCHERE, Esq., M.P. moved that the report be adopted and printed, and in doing so expressed his cordial sympathy with the object they were met to promote; and while not desiring to detract from the exertions of other parties, he felt it to be his duty to uphold that institution which embraced another and more comprehensive principle [cheers].

Lord WORSLEY seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The Bishop of NORWICH moved the next resolution, expressive of gratitude for her Majesty's munificent subscription to the funds. On the subject before them he scarcely knew where to begin, and when he begun he scarcely knew where to end. He would, however, detain them but briefly on that occasion, and he might be permitted to congratulate their noble chairman on seeing around him by far the most numerous meeting that he ever saw in Exeter Hall, assembled to promote the great cause of the education of the people [cheers]. If any said that the cause of education was flagging, he would wish them present to see the living evidences to the contrary [cheers]. No, he



was happy to see that the cause was advancing, and he was happy to stand at the right hand of one to whose approbation, sanction, and support, that cause owed so much. He (Lord John Russell) was deserving not only of the gratitude of this country, but of every land wherever the British flag waived to show what England was [cheers]. With the instruction imparted by that Society, the religion of the Bible was conjoined [cheers]. He could remember the time when it was said, that these schools were hostile to the church [cheers]. He would say boldly, and that in the face of his dissenting brethren, that these schools were fighting the battles of the Church of England. Upon what was the Church of England founded, but upon the doctrines of the Reformation? In the British and Foreign schools, the instruction was founded on the Bible, and the Bible alone. They taught the doctrines of the salvation of man through the mediation of Jesus Christ, and of justification by faith, without dependence on human merit, and the divinity of the Saviour. Were not these the doctrines of the Church of England? and he gloried in any means by which they could be disseminated amongst the peasantry of England. But it was said to be dangerous to stand with those who differed from them in some points. There might be danger, but he felt it not. All he required was the same liberty of conscience which they desired to enjoy. He hoped the time would soon come when all party feeling would merge in that one great, broad, and Christian principle of glory to God and good will to all mankind [loud cheers].

JOHN ABEL SMITH, Esq., M.P., seconded the resolution, and in doing so gave his personal testimony to the useful result of the system of education at present in operation in the society's schools. He had presided at the last examination of the children, and they acquitted themselves in a manner which gave the utmost satisfaction to all present.

The Rev. CHAS. STOVEL moved a resolution expressive of the importance of promoting, by all possible means, the personal comfort and professional improvement of the masters and teachers who have the charge of British schools.

The Rev. Mr KNIBB, of Jamaica, addressed the meeting in an able and energetic speech, in the course of which he took occasion to acknowledge the services of Lord John Russell, and his party, in promoting the cause of negro emancipation, and to return him, on the part of the black population of Jamaica, to which he was about to return, their sincere thanks for that glorious boon which had made them men [cheers].

The Rev. Mr BURNETT moved a vote of thanks to the Duke of Bedford and to Lord John Russell, for their services in support of the institution, which was carried by acclamation.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL briefly returned thanks, and the meeting separated.

The annual meeting of the Baptist Union was held at New Park street, on Thursday, April 28; the Rev. Dr. Carson in the chair. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—"1. That the facts, that, in 975 churches of the baptist denomination, there was in the year now reported a clear increase of 9,366 members, that this augmentation gives an average annual rate of increase of 104 members per church, and that the annual rate of increase in the denomination has tripled itself within eight years, afford matter of devout congratulation and humble gratitude. 2. That this meeting record with lively interest the origination, within a short period, of several evangelical baptist churches on the continent of Europe; that they recognise with unfeigned joy the grace of God towards them, in the holy consistency of their character, and the Christian intrepidity with which some of them have endured bonds and imprisonment for the truth; and that, while they think that the persecuting powers, both civil and ecclesiastical, might well blush at the proceedings they have adopted, this meeting place unshaken confidence in God for the advancement of his cause, and look to this movement for important and most salutary results. 3. That this meeting is painfully sensible of the many impediments by which the diffusion of vital godliness throughout our country is obstructed, some of them arising from physical destitution and suffering, some from oppressive measures adopted by interested powerful parties, others (and the most grievous) from the state establishment of religion, by which independence of thought is in a great measure paralysed, a fallacious sense of security inspired, and the influence of destructive errors facilitated and confirmed: that, nevertheless, this meeting cherishes a confident expectation that the weapons which "are not carnal" will be "mighty through God;" and would encourage all, and the members of the baptist denomination in particular, to be diligent and persevering in disseminating the good seed of evangelical truth."

The annual meeting of the Aged Pilgrim's Friend society was held at the London Tavern, on Monday, April 25, Thomas Challis, Esq. in the chair. The secretary (Mr J. Box) read the report, from which it appeared that the funds of the society had considerably diminished, occasioned by the death of some of the subscribers, and the withdrawal of others, on account of the depression of trade. There were 330 recipients of the society's charity, amongst whom were persons aged 80, 90, and 101 years. During the year 40 died; there were 41 applicants; 28 were admitted on pensions of 4s. a month; four on pensions of 10 guineas a year, and 12 under visitation. There were on the institution 39 life pensioners, at 10 guineas a-year; 95 at 5 guineas; 189 at 4s. a month, and 7 pensioners in workhouses at 2s. a month each; making a total of 330. The receipts amounted to £1,600 6s. 6d., and the expenditure, including £1,413 16s. paid to pensioners, to £1,599 3s. The usual resolutions were moved and supported by the Revs. C. Gilbert, J. W. Goring, Joseph Irons, Mortlock Daniell, P. Dickerson and Charles Hyatt, and Messrs. R. Pope, D. W. Wire, and J. Payne.

The annual meeting of the Church Missionary society was held last week, at Exeter-hall. The Earl of Chichester took the chair, supported by the Bishop of Ripon, the Bishop of Chester, the Bishop of Norwich, and a large body of the clergy of the church of England. The report detailed at great length the operations of the society in various parts of the world during the past year. The labours of the missionaries have, it appears, been highly successful in India and in Africa, as well as in New Zealand, and the other colonies of Great Britain. The total amount of the receipts for the year was £90,821, and of the expenditure £110,808, leaving a deficiency of £19,987.

The reading of the report occupied nearly two hours. It was adopted, on the motion of the Bishop of Ripon, seconded by the Rev. J. Cumming.

The annual meeting of the Wesleyan Missionary society was held on Monday, May 2, at Exeter-hall; Colonel Conolly in the chair. The Rev. Dr. Bunting read the report, from which it appeared that the receipts amounted to £101,688 2s. 4d., and the expenditure to £98,745 7s. 9d.; leaving a surplus of £2,933 14s. 7d. The net increase of the year, as compared with the preceding, is £11,505 13s. 8d. The present number of principal or central mission stations, called circuits, occupied by the society in the several parts of the world, is 261; the number of missionaries employed, exclusive of catechists, 368; the number of full and accredited church members, exclusive of those under the care of the society's missionaries in Ireland, 87,258; and the number of scholars in the mission schools is nearly 60,000.

## MARRIAGES.

May 7, at Stepney meeting, by the Rev. Thomas Smith, Mr JOHN HARMAR SMITH, surgeon, of Sheffield, to MARY ANN, third surviving daughter of the late Mr Sargeant S. JTH, of 126, Houndsditch.

May 4, at Howard street chapel, Sheffield, by the Rev. R. S. Bayley, F.S.A., Mr EDWARD LINLEY, to JANE, eldest daughter of Mr John CHARLTON, both of Sheffield.

May 3, at the dissenting chapel, Market place, Kendal, by the Rev. E. Hawkes, M.A., the Rev. GEORGE LEE, jun., of Hull, to JANE AGNES, eldest daughter of Joseph WHITAKER, Esq., Highgate.

April 22, at the baptist chapel, Leominster, by the Rev. Maurice Jones, the Rev. J. R. JONES, of Kilsby, Northamptonshire, to Miss CHILCOTT, of the former place.

## DEATHS.

March 1, at Calcutta, W. T. BEEBY, Esq., of Watford, Herts, aged 47. Mr Beeby died of the cholera, after eight hours from the time of his seizure. The Rev. Mr GIBSON, who went out to succeed the Rev. Mr Tucker, as pastor of one of the baptist churches in Calcutta, was seized with cholera while attending Mr Beeby's funeral, died in a few hours, and in less than twenty-four hours was buried by his side.

May 1, at Kenilworth, Mr JOHN GIBBS, senior deacon of the independent church under the pastoral care of the Rev. John Button.

May 7, LOTISA LANDER, daughter of the Rev. T. PARRY, St John's street road, London, aged 4 years.

May 4, CHARLES PULLER, Esq., of Walworth place, Walworth road, late of Longacre, aged 76.

May 5, at a little after 12, the Dowager Duchess of RICHMOND, at her residence, Upper Portland place, in her 74th year.

May 5, JAMES RICHARD HARDY, Esq., of Peckham road, Camberwell, Surrey, aged 71.

## TRADE AND COMMERCE.

## LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, May 6.

## INSOLVENTS.

HOOPER, WILLIAM, Reading, Berks, tobacco manufacturer, May 6.

YOUNG, JOHN, Lambeth marsh, Surrey, victualer, May 5.

## BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

LOWNDES, JOHN HOPE, Liverpool, merchant.

## BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

LOCKWOOD, JAMES and GEORGE, Wakefield, Yorkshire, and St John's, New Brunswick, linen drapers.

## BANKRUPTS.

CAPEL, HENRY, late of 4, Coopers' row, Tower hill, City, wine merchant, May 13, June 17: solicitors, Mr R. S. Wadson, 11, Austin friars.

CHANDLEY, WILLIAM, Manchester street, Gray's inn road, carpenter, May 13, June 17: solicitor, Mr Ivimey, 89, Chancery lane.

HILL, JOSEPH, Chichester, Sussex, grocer, May 19, June 17: solicitors, Mr A. Dobie, Lancaster place, Waterloo bridge, London, and Mr J. Sherwood, Chichester.

HOUNSFIELD, WILLIAM, Manchester, commission merchant, May 25, June 17: solicitors, Messrs Makinson and Sanders, 3, Elm court, Middle Temple, and Messrs Atkinson and Saunders, Manchester.

POPE, DOMINICK, now or late of New York, and of Fenchurch street, City, merchant, May 14, June 17: solicitor, Mr Lloyd, 61, Cheapside.

ROGERS, JOSEPH, Bromyard, Herefordshire, scrivener, May 13, June 17: solicitors, Messrs White and Eyre, 11, Bedford row, London, and Messrs Finch and Jones, Worcester.

SANDERSON, RICHARD, Leeds, corn factor, May 13, June 17: solicitors, Messrs Smithson and Mitton, 23, Southampton buildings, Chancery lane, London, and Messrs Dunning and Stawman, Leeds.

SATTERTHWAITE, JOHN, Cullum street, City, wine merchant, May 13, June 17: solicitors, Messrs Templer and Co., 23, Great Tower street.

SEALBY, ISAAC, Keswick, Cumberland, edge tool manufacturer, May 26, June 17: solicitors, Mr R. B. Armstrong, 8, Staple inn, London, and Mr J. Hall, Keswick.

SHERLOCK, GEORGE, Liverpool, ship broker, May 19, June 17: solicitors, Messrs Adlington and Co., Bedford row, London, and Messrs Crump and Hassall, Liverpool.

SOUTHERN, JOSEPH, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, victualer, May 16, June 17: solicitors, Messrs Dangerfield, 26, Suffolk street, Pall mall east, London, and Mr Brinton, Kidderminster.

WATSON, ROBERT, Colne, Lancashire, manufacturer of pieces formed partly of worsted and partly of cotton, May 18, June 17: solicitors, Messrs Hawkins and Co., 2, New Boswell court, London, and Mr R. Ridehalgh, Bradford.

## SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

ARNOT, DAVID, Falkirk, ironmonger, May 12, June 9.

BORRENSTEIN, DAVID AARONSON, and NEILSON, JOHN, Glasgow, publishers, May 12, June 1.

BREMNER, JOHN, Kirkcaldy, manufacturer, May 12, June 2.

CHISHOLM, WILLIAM, Glasgow, cooper, May 13, June 3.

HALKETT, PETER, Pitcair, Forfarshire, May 12, June 9.

HOGG, WILLIAM, Glasgow, tailor, May 14, June 4.

LAWRANCE, JAMES, Aberdeen, manufacturer, May 12.

## DIVIDENDS.

May 27, A. and T. Rivers, Egham, Surrey, brewers—May 27, Bradford and Healey, Great Trinity lane, City, wholesale stationers—May 27, R. and S. Phillips, 190, Regent street, lamp manufacturers—May 27, C. and P. Knight, Ivy lane, Newgate market, salesmen—May 27, Rowland, Horsham, Sussex, linen draper—May 28, Willson, King street, St Giles's stationer—May 28, Castle, Lucas street, Rotherhithe, ship owner—May 27, Garlic, Royal Circus street, Greenwich, carpenter—May 27, Smith and Monteath, Oxford street, linen drapers—May 31, Smith, Doncaster, British wine manufacturer—May 28, Williams, Llanrwst, Denbighshire, druggist—June 4, Pattinson, late of Ashton-under-Lyne, timber merchant—May 31, Blackmore and Craven, Wakefield, Yorkshire, corn millers—June 2, Knight, Southampton, cabinet maker—June 2, Brown, Sheffield, merchant—May 30, Swift, Manchester, tailor—May 27, Powell, Brighton, linen draper—June 3, Mather and Co., Manchester and Salford, iron founders—May 31, Coulter, Doncaster, dealer.

## CERTIFICATES—MAY 27.

Molyneux and Witherby, Liverpool, merchants—King, Oxford, manufacturer—Robertson and Co., Liverpool, ship chandlers—Bright, Picket street, Strand, London, draper—Page, jun., Gloucester, carrier—Hartshorne, Oldswinford, Worcestershire, and Whittington, Staffordshire, iron manufacturer—Woodhead, Duckmanton, Derbyshire, cattle dealer.

## PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Stephenson and Giles, Old Ford, Middlesex, starch makers—Hooper and Hunt, Exeter, wine and spirit merchants—Slater and Morphet, St Helen's mill, Newlay, Yorkshire, fulling millers—Kennett and Heaton, Lime street, London, wholesale oilmen—Yarrington and Taylor, Norwich, stationers—Sampson and Co., New Sarum, Wiltshire, surgeons (so far as regards Sampson)—Johnson and Wyatt, Bowl yard, St Giles's, brewers—Taylor and Hollingsworth, Chelsea, omnibus proprietors—Chappell and House, Cannington, Somersetshire, millwrights—Rogers and Biddell, 4, West Smithfield, and 7, Leather-seller's buildings, London wall, tailors—Buck and Rhind, 7, Little Sussex place, Hyde park gardens, printers—Blanchard and Leighton, 1, Little Lant street, Southwark, japan felt hat manufacturers—Gibson and Meacock, Liverpool and Manchester, merchants—T. and J. Maddock, Liverpool, tallow chandlers—Fielding and Co., Heywood, Lancashire, linen drapers—J. and T. Hayton, Maryport, Cumberland, mercers—Thyer and Renshaw, Sale, Cheshire, chemists—Davis and Peake, Compton, Staffordshire, butchers—Just and Worthington, Liverpool, commission merchants—J. and G. Hancock, Fenton, Staffordshire, builders—Merrett and Browning, 115, Leadenhall street, London, surgeons—Park and Goulesborough, Manchester, iron



merchants—Patterson and Peel, Bradford, Yorkshire, stuff merchants—Perkins and Co., Faversham, Kent, timber merchants (so far as regards Perkins)—J. and W. Templeman, Everingham, Yorkshire, veterinary surgeons—Barnes and Fell, New Mills, Glossop, Derbyshire, cotton spinners—Bainbridge, 6, Fenchurch buildings, and Bending, Bull and Mouth street, London, shoemakers—Hinde and Marrian, Sheffield, common brewers—Daniels and Co., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, paper stainers (so far as regards Daniels).

Tuesday, May 10.

INSOLVENTS.  
FOSTER, MATTHEW, 29, Crosby hall chambers, Bishopsgate street, City, and of Tower street, Hackney, merchant, May 10.

BANKRUPTS.  
ALEXANDER, JAMES, 101, Leadenhall street, musical wind instrument maker, May 18, June 21: solicitors, Mr Theobald, 2, Staple inn.

BAYNTUM, FRANCIS, Bath, Somersetshire, surgeon dentist, May 23, June 21: solicitors, Messrs Richards and Walker, 29, Lincoln's inn fields, London, and Mr Hinton, East Drake, Bath.

FOORD, GEORGE, Brighton, Sussex, coal merchant, May 21, June 21: solicitors, Messrs Palmer and Co., 24, Bedford row, Holborn, London.

HANCOCK, CHARLES, 17, Earl street, Blackfriars, and of 5, Paternoster row, City, coal merchant, May 20, June 21: solicitors, Messrs Newbon and Evans, 1, Wardrobe place, Doctors' commons.

KEYS, EDWARD, Hanley, Staffordshire, china manufacturer, May 18, June 21: solicitors, Mr John Adams, Stevenson, Stoke-upon-Trent, and Mr Cornwell Baron Wilson, 13, Furnival's inn, London.

LOYD, DAVID, Canal basin, Llanllwchaiarn, Montgomeryshire, timber dealer, May 23, June 21: solicitors, Mr John Owens, Newtown, and Mr William Dean, 16, Essex street, Strand, London.

MARSHALL, CHARLES, Old Castle street, Whitechapel, brewer, May 17, June 21: solicitor, Mr Henderson, 28, Mansell street, Goodman's fields.

REYS, EVAN, Dudley, Worcestershire, hatter, May 21, June 21: solicitor, Mr Edward Amos Chaplin, 3, Gray's inn square, London.

SMALLEY, WILLIAM, now or late of Sheephead, Leicestershire, corn dealer, May 24, June 21: solicitors, Mr Joseph Parker, Loughborough, and Messrs Emmett and Allen, 14, Bloomsbury square, London.

TILSTON, JOSEPH, Macclesfield, Cheshire, silk manufacturer, May 20, June 21: solicitors, Messrs Bell and Co., Bow Church yard, London, and Mr Helbrook, Macclesfield.

WALLER, EDMUND HENRY, and WATERS, WILLIAM, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, timber merchants, May 16, June 21: solicitors, Messrs Hall and Jenkins, Newport, and Messrs Blower and Vizard, 61, Lincoln's inn fields, London.

WARD, WILLIAM, Blackfriars road, Surrey, draper, May 23, June 21: solicitors, Messrs Reed and Co., Friday street, Cheapside.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.  
CONACHER, CHARLES, and CONACHER, DAVID, Pitlochry, merchants, May 16, June 7.

FAIRLIE, GEORGE, Glasgow, builder, May 16, June 6.

GREENSHIELDS, ARCHIBALD, Glasgow, and of Kingstone, province of Canada, merchant, May 13, June 7.

SINCLAIR, JOHN, Patrick, grocer, May 13, June 3.

DIVIDENDS.  
May 31, Scott and Coker, Wood street, Cheapside, woolen warehousemen—May 31, Smith, Hatton garden, Middlesex, and Edinburgh, cabinet maker and mahogany merchant—May 31, J. and J. J. Shury, Charterhouse street, Middlesex, engravers, printers, and stationers—May 31, Kymer, late of Winsford, Cheshire, and of Bucklersbury, London, salt manufacturer—May 31, Cannon, 11, Dark house lane, Lower Thames street, City, fish factor and fruit merchant—May 26, Green, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, draper—May 31, Treherne, Oxford street, upholsterer—May 31, Golland, Cambridge, linen draper—May 30, Adams, George street, Thrawl street, Brick lane, Spitalfields, feather merchant, mattress and palliass manufacturer—May 30, Hutchins, Whitechapel road, linen draper—May 29, Thwaites, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, porter merchant—June 2, Rowe, Leicester, draper—June 3, Williams, St Woollos, Monmouthshire, coal merchant—June 3, H. Lewis, otherwise H. P. Lewis, Llandovery, Carmarthenshire, draper—June 2, Richards, Northampton, pawnbroker and grocer—June 7, Wilson and Crighton, Manchester, calico printers—June 7, Wilson, Tyldesley banks, Lancashire, cotton spinner—June 22, Crighton, sen., Manchester, machine maker and cotton spinner—June 3, Povey, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, grocer, whitesmith, and gas fitter—June 3, Bass, Brecon, Brecknockshire, draper—June 7, Horsfall, Addingham, Yorkshire, cotton spinner and manufacturer—June 1, Bevan, Swansea, Glamorganshire, ironmonger—June 1, Hardecastle, late of Birmingham, grocer—June 3, J. and J. W. Lindsay, North Shields, Northumberland, grocers and wine and spirit merchants—June 6, Riley, Wellesbourne Hastings, Warwickshire, corn dealer, salesman, and farmer—June 3, Mills, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, and Seed, Manchester, cotton manufacturers—June 4, Roscoe, Clarke, and Roscoe, Liverpool, bankers—June 4, Langmead, Teignmouth, Devonshire, banker—June 1, Wilkins, Newport, Monmouthshire, corn factor—June 4, Hide, Broadwater, Sussex, builder—June 3, M'Lachlan, Liverpool, licensed victualler.

CERTIFICATES—MAY 31.  
Smith, Old Broad street, City, and of Hamburg, in Germany, merchant—Rodgers, Liverpool, ironfounder—Howell, Oxford street, linen draper—Thompson, Sunderland, Durham, chain and anchor manufacturer—Lazarus, Kent and Sussex tavern, Jermyn street, St James's, coach proprietor and horse dealer—Scott and Fairlie, Union court, City, merchants—Jopp, Cornhill, City, ship and insurance broker—Charnley, jun., Preston, Lancashire, innkeeper.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.  
English and Butler, 34, Seething lane, Tower street, surgeons—Tiffin and Brown, 5, Blackfriars road, tobaccoconists—Watson and Macdonald, Liverpool—Egan and Co., 23, Essex street, Strand, attorneys at law—Thomson and Co., wine merchants (so far as regards Williams)—Smith and Dewnap, Sheffield, cabinet case manufacturers—Heap and Co., Liverpool, wholesale grocers (so far as regards Davies)—Harrison, sen. and Harrison, jun., Dover, drapers—E. and D. Pinkess, Liverpool, colour manufacturers—Smith and Parker, Hammersmith, grocers—Gervis and Hele, Ashburton, Devonshire, surgeons—Gilbert and Harnden, Hythe, Kent, watch makers—Shorland and Evans, Bristol, grocers—J. and A. Kirby, Banbury, Oxfordshire, grocers—Wilson and Raper, Huddersfield, joiners—Thompson and Fuller, Chiswick, brewers—Smith and Williams, Birmingham, haberdashers—Harvey and Healy, Grantham, Lincolnshire, mercers—T. and W. Chown, West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, farmers—Johnson and Seddon, Manchester, tin plate workers—Howells and Herne, Cardiff, Glamorganshire, linen drapers—Lyndhall and Hall, 147, Leadenhall street, City, ship brokers—W. and T. Cobham, Ware, Hertfordshire, barge owners—Tateson, sen., and Tateson, jun., Market Raven, Lincolnshire, wholesale brewers—Downe and White, Donhead St Mary, Wiltshire, general shopkeepers—Mellin and Craven, Hulme Dye works, near Wakefield, Yorkshire, dyers—Petrie and Co., Rochdale, Lancashire, cotton spinners (so far as regards Petrie)—E. and G. Hurry, Paul's wharf, Upper Thames street, bottle merchants—Hodgkinson and Johnson, Dowgate hill, City, wholesale tea dealers—Saddon and Weddell, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, Lancashire, coach makers—Bullock and Ekin, Cambridge, common brewers—Whitmarsh, sen., and Whitmarsh, jun., New Sarum, Wiltshire, attorneys—J. and F. Wedgwood, Etruria, Staffordshire, manufacturers of earthenware—Bullmore and Johnson, 28, Clerkenwell close, London, and Middle mill, Kingston, Surrey, gold and silver wire drawers.

#### BRITISH FUNDS.

There has been a slight depression in the prices of the funds, but they still continue steady on the whole, and there appears no apprehension of a further decline at present.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols .....	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
Ditto for Account .....	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
3 per cents. Reduced .....	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½
3½ per cents. Reduced .....	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½
New 3½ per cent. ....	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½
Long Annuities .....	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½
Bank Stock .....	167	—	168	168	167½	167½
India Stock .....	247	248½	248½	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills .....	38 pm	39 pm	39 pm	38 pm	38 pm	39 pm
India Bonds, 3 per cent. ....	21 pm	21 pm	21 pm	20 pm	20 pm	20 pm

#### FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian .....	110½	Mexican .....	32½
Belgian .....	102½	Peruvian .....	19
Brazilian .....	61½	Portuguese 5 per cents .....	62
Buenos Ayres .....	23	Ditto 3 per cents .....	22½
Columbian .....	26½	Russian .....	112½
Danish .....	—	Spanish Active .....	23½
Dutch 2½ per cents .....	53	Ditto Passive .....	4½
Ditto 5 per cents .....	101½	Ditto Deferred .....	12

#### SHARES.

Railways—		London and Brighton .....	36½
Birmingham and Derby .....	50	London and Croydon Trunk ..	14
Birmingham and Gloucester ..	53	London and Greenwich .....	5½
Blackwall .....	12½	Ditto New .....	18
Bristol and Exeter .....	43	Manchester and Birmingham ..	28½
Cheltenham and Gt. Western .....	16½	Manchester and Leeds .....	87½
Eastern Counties .....	10	Midland Counties .....	76½
Edinburgh and Glasgow .....	—	Ditto Quarter Shares .....	24
Great North of England .....	—	North Midland .....	65
Great Western .....	93½	Ditto New .....	34
Ditto New .....	64	South Eastern and Dover .....	31
Ditto Fifties .....	11	South Western .....	63½
London and Birmingham .....	182	Ditto New .....	10½
Ditto Quarter Shares .....	31		

#### MARKETS.

##### GRAIN, MARK LANE, May 9.

The arrivals of foreign wheat and flour, and of Irish oats, were large, but of all other articles moderate. The trade was firm, and the stands were cleared at fully last week's prices; a little more doing in free foreign.

Barley was dull; grinding not cheaper, but the finer quality are now down to grinding prices, as there is no demand for malting or distilling.

The large arrivals of Irish oats occasion a dullness in the trade, but good English being scarce, were rather dearer.

Beans and peas maintained prices.

Wheat, Red New 50 to 57	Malt, Ordinary .. 45 to 53	Beans, Old .....	34 to 37
Fine .....	Pale .....	Harrow .....	30 .. 32
White .....	Peas, Hog .....	Oats, Feed .....	18 .. 20
Fine .....	Maple .....	Fine .....	21 .. 23
Rye .....	Boilers .....	Poland .....	22 .. 26
Barley .....	Beans, Ticks .....	Potato .....	18 .. 22
Malting .....			

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR MAY 6.	AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF SIX WEEKS.	DUTY ON FOREIGN CORN FOR THE PRESENT WEEK.
Wheat .....	Wheat .....	Wheat .....
Barley .....	Barley .....	Barley .....
Oats .....	Oats .....	Oats .....
Rye .....	Rye .....	Rye .....
Beans .....	Beans .....	Beans .....
Peas .....	Peas .....	Peas .....

#### SEEDS.

The business done in seeds was quite unimportant to-day, but there was more disposition to purchase linseed and rapeseed cakes.

Linseed, English, sowing 50s. to 55s. per qr	Coriander .....	10s. to 16s. pr cwt
Baltic, ditto .....	Old .....	16 .. 18
Ditto, crushing .....	Canary, new .....	68 .. 70
Mediter. and Odessa .....	Old .....	— .. —
Clover, English, red .....	Extra .....	75 .. 80
Ditto, white .....	Caraway, old .....	50 .. 52
Flemish, red .....	New .....	48 .. 52
Ditto, white .....	Mustard, brown, new 10 .. 14 pr bush.	
New Hamburg, red .....	White .....	9 .. 13
Ditto, white .....	Trefoil .....	16 .. 35
Old Hamburg, red .....	Rye grass, English .....	30 .. 42
Ditto, white .....	Scotch .....	18 .. 40
French, red .....	Tares, winter .....	— .. — per qr.
Ditto, white .....	New .....	4 .. 5 pr bush
Hempseed, small .....	Large, foreign .....	— .. —
Large .....	Rapeseed, English, new 36½ .. 40½ pr last.	

#### PROVISIONS, LONDON, May 9.

Very little was done in Irish butter. Foreign was more in request at higher prices: Friesland reached 96s.; Kiel, 88s. to 94s.; Holland, 84s. to 88s.; Leer and Emden, 80s. to 84s. In bacon the transactions were few, and trifling in amount. Bale and tierce middles—no variation in the demand or value. Hams of the best quality met a ready sale at full prices. Lard attracted rather more attention, and continues firm in price.

#### HOPS, BOTHOUGH, May 9.

The plants are looking healthy and strong since the change in the wind, and the market is very firm, with a good demand for the few samples on the board. The estimated duty is still £150,000, with very little betting.

#### BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, May 9.

The trade was generally better this morning, the supplies not exceeding the demand, which was more active than on last market day. The prices realised show an improvement of 2d. per stone in beef, veal, and pork. In mutton and lamb the rates did not vary. The accounts from the grazing districts are favourable.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef .....	3s. 4d. to 4s. 6d.	Veal .....	4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.
Mutton .....	3 8 .. 4 6	Pork .....	4 4 .. 5 0
Lamb .....	6s. 0d. to 7s. 0d.		

#### HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday .....	441	9,600	112	436
Monday .....	2,366	24,310	119	391

#### NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, May 9.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.			
Inferior Beef .....	3s. 2d. to 3s. 4d.	Inferior Mutton .....	3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d.
Middling ditto .....	3 4 .. 3 6	Middling ditto .....	3 6 .. 3 8
Prime large ditto .....	3 6 .. 3 8	Prime ditto .....	3 8 .. 3 10
Prime small ditto .....	3 8 .. 3 10	Veal .....	4 4 .. 5 4
Large Pork .....	4 0 .. 4 8	Small Pork .....	4 10 .. 5 0
Lamb .....	5s. 10d. to 6s. 10d.		

#### POTATOES, SOUTHWARK, May 9.

During the past week a large supply has arrived in the market: from Scotland, 1750 tons; Yorkshire, 525; Jersey and Guernsey, 790; Devons, 345; Kent, Essex, and Suffolk, 420; Wisbeach, 130; total, 4010 tons.

York Reds ..... per ton 70s. to 80s. | Wisbeach ..... | per ton 50s. to 55s. || Scotch ..... | 60 .. 65 | Jersey and Guernsey Blues .. | 45 .. 50 |
| Irish ..... | — .. — | Jersey Whites ..... | — .. — |
| Devons ..... | 70 .. 75 | Kent, Essex, and Suffolk Whites | 50 .. 55 |

#### WOOL, May 9.

The operations in this market during the present week have been of a limited character. Sales continue much reduced as to extent, and prices are in a considerable degree nominal.

#### HAY, SMITHFIELD, May 7.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Coarse Meadow Hay .....	50s. to 70s.	New Clover Hay .....	—s. to —s.
New ditto .....	— .. —	Old ditto .....	80 .. 120
Useful old ditto .....	75 .. 84	Oat Straw .....	36 .. 40
Fine Upland and Rye Grass ..	85 .. 90	Wheat Straw .....	40 .. 42

#### COAL EXCHANGE, May 9.

Stewart's, 20s. 9d.; Lambton's, 20s. 6d.; Hetton's, 20s. 6d.; Haswell, 20s. 6d.; Hartlepool's, 20s. 6d. Ships arrived this week, 225.

#### GROCERIES, TUESDAY, MAY 10.

TEA.—The sales went off with much heaviness for both Black and Green Tea; and although the merchants were disposed to realize, still the trade could not be induced to take more than their immediate wants required, at a reduction on former rates of 4d to 1d.

COFFEE.—There was no public sale of Coffee, and by private contract few purchases were made; those parties that are disposed to sell have been compelled to take easier rates. 75s. is the value of good ordinary Ceylon, 76s. for fine ordinary Company's Java.

SUGAR.—The assortment at market was pretty good; buyers evinced little inclination to do business, and the demand both for the scale and pan was limited, and the prices accepted were at a decline since Tuesday last of 2s. to 3s. per cwt.

TALLOW.—Prices are steady for P. Y. Candle, but the demand is limited at 46s. 3d. on the spot, and 48s. 6d. for delivery in the last three months of the year. Town tallow is selling at 45s. net cash.



**LETTER** from Mr D. CUSSONS, Bookseller, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, to Messrs T. ROBERTS and Co., Proprietors of PARR'S LIFE PILLS, 9, Crane Court, Fleet Street, London.

"Gentlemen—The following are a few of the cases of cure from taking OLD PARR'S wonderful medicine, that have occurred in this neighbourhood, and being immediately under my own observation, I can vouch for their accuracy, and shall be happy to answer inquiries from any persons who may desire further information.

"Mrs BLACKBURN, of Kirkby Bain, has for a length of time been labouring under great affliction, until her strength was nearly exhausted, but hearing of the extraordinary cures effected by PARR'S Pills, she sent to my shop for a box, which gave her great relief, and after taking two or three boxes more, to the astonishment of herself and neighbours, she was perfectly restored.

Mr CAVE, a respectable farmer of Wislington, was troubled with a severe cold. He purchased a box, and was surprised to find that they were the means of relieving him of a Scorbatic affliction which he had been troubled with for years, and had given up all hopes of being totally relieved from it. He is now persevering in taking the Pills, and has no doubt they will affect an entire cure.

The Rev. Mr CLEMENTSON, dissenting minister, of Horncastle, is taking Parr's Life Pills, and recommending them to all his friends. He says there is more real benefit in relieving and assisting the constitution in "OLD PARR'S," than any other medicine he ever took, and they have been of essential benefit to numbers of his friends who have tried them."

If I had time, and you had room for them, I could enumerate fifty cases which have come under my observation, quite equal to the above; but the increased sale of the medicine testifies the value set upon it in this neighbourhood.

"I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

"D. CUSSONS, Bookseller.

"Horncastle, 28th Sept. 1841."

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In order to protect the public from imitations, the Hon. Commissioners of Stamps have ordered the words

"PARR'S LIFE PILLS," to be engraved on the government stamp, which is pasted round the sides of each box, in white letters on a red ground. Without this mark of authenticity they are spurious and an imposition! Prepared only by the proprietors, T. Roberts and Co., 9, Crane Court, Fleet Street, London, and sold wholesale by their appointment, by E. Edwards, 67, St Paul's; also by Barclay and Sons, Farringdon Street; and Sutton and Co., Bow Church Yard, and retail by at least one agent in every town in the United Kingdom, and by most respectable dealers in medicine. Price 1s. 1d., 2s. 9d., and family boxes 11s. each. Full directions are given with each box.

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are in an eminent degree calculated to prevent, and should they be of long standing in the constitution, a steady perseverance in the remedy now offered, will remove. They are not intended as a panacea for every disorder of the body, but those only which are primarily

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Extract from a Letter by the Rev. J. Harris, D.D., author of "Mammon."

The conception and arrangement of the work are admirable; and as far as I have had the opportunity of judging, the execution of it equals the plan. I have read various parts of it attentively; and while I have not met with anything which I could wish to have been omitted, most unfeignedly can I say that I have found much calculated to inspire and sustain devotion.  
Epsom.

*J. Harris*

A superficial survey of it, ("A Guide to Family Devotion,") is sufficient to manifest that its plan is the most complete of any with which I am acquainted, embracing everything which the service of the family altar requires, or admits of; while its execution is also such as to entitle it to commendation, and secure for it the circulation and use which it deserves.  
Birmingham.

*J. J. Guiness*

I feel it right to express my opinion that the plan is excellent; and that the execution of the plan is judicious, and well adapted to its purpose, as an aid to the great duty and blessing of family, conjugal, and secret worship.  
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It is not till after a careful perusal that I gave an opinion of Mr. Fletcher's "Guide to Family Devotion." This I do now with great pleasure; believing it to be a work eminently calculated for beneficial circulation in Christian families, to whom I would earnestly recommend it.  
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I am enabled to speak with propriety and confidence of the real worth and admirable adaptation to usefulness of your work. I have used it much in my own family, and I can truly say that as I advance it grows in my esteem. You have rendered a most important service to Christian households by your labours, and I have no doubt that its circulation will be as extensive as your most sanguine expectations could anticipate.  
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I consider it a vast advantage to persons who begin house-keeping, if unaccustomed to extemporaneous prayer, to have such a help to devotion as your work affords. Many, especially females have felt considerable difficulty in conducting family worship, for want of a selection of Scriptures adapted to family reading; this difficulty your work meets, and cannot but be appreciated by a large class of the Christian community. The work appears to me to be executed devotionally, which, in my opinion, is a strong recommendation of its excellency. With many sincere wishes for its success,  
Surrey-Chapel House.

*J. J. Thorne*

I have been particularly pleased with the adaptation of the several Hymns, Portions of Scripture, and Prayers, to each other. The general character of the whole is excellent; and I trust the work will be found eminently useful in the promotion of domestic piety. That result will, doubtless, be esteemed by you an ample reward for the labour you must have expended.  
York.

*James Parsons*

I regard this "Guide" as eminently calculated to lead on to the fulfilment of that prophecy, "Elijah shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." Much both of the mantle and the spirit of Elijah has fallen upon the author of this timely work.  
Maberley Chapel.

*Robert Philip*

The evangelical strain of the prayers gives them an advantage over most other forms which have been published for families: I mean, not only the savour of evangelical feeling and motive with which they are imbued, but the frequent addresses which are intermingled to each Divine Person of the Triune Jehovah. I trust that your labours will lead many families to a practical use and enjoyment of the glorious privileges of the gospel.

*Isaac Pratt*  
Vicar of St. Stephen's, Coleman Street.

Your volume has, to my mind, several characteristic recommendations. The addition of sacred song, and especially of scripture reading to morning and evening prayer, I regard with great satisfaction. Your scripture selection also appears to be at once judicious and comprehensive. Allow me to add, that I have been delighted to find, at whatever page of your work I have opened, a strain thoroughly evangelical; the expressions of repentance towards God, and faith in the great atonement, seem to me essential to every prayer.  
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COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

**THE Sixth ANNUAL MEETING** of this SOCIETY will be held on FRIDAY Morning, the Thirteenth of May, in the KING'S WEIGH HOUSE CHAPEL, Fish Street Hill. Chair to be taken by the Treasurer, J. R. MILLS, Esq., at Eleven o'clock precisely.

ALGERNON WELLS, Secretary.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

For the Abolition of Slavery and the Slave Trade throughout the World.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING** of this SOCIETY will take place in EXETER HALL, on FRIDAY, 13th May, 1842. The Most Hon. the Marquis of CLANRICARDE will preside. The Doors will be open at Ten, and the Chair will be taken at Eleven o'clock precisely. J. H. TREDGOLD, Secretary.

Admission by Tickets only, which may be had at the SOCIETY'S OFFICE, 27, New Broad Street; THOMAS WARD and Co., 27, Paternoster Row; HATCHARD and SON, 187, Piccadilly; JAMES NISBET and Co., Berners Street; JACOB POST, Lower Road, Islington; JOSEPH STERRY and SON, 156, High Street, Borough; JEREMIAH CLARK, 13, Moorgate Street; and CHARLES GILPIN, 5, Bishopsgate Street Without.

EVANGELICAL VOLUNTARY CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

**THE PUBLIC BREAKFAST** of this ASSOCIATION will be held at the LONDON TAVERN, Bishopsgate Street, on SATURDAY Morning, May 14, 1842. Sir CULLING EARDLEY SMITH, Bart, President, will take the Chair at Eight o'clock.

Tickets of Admission may be had at the LONDON TAVERN, immediately before the Breakfast, price 1s. 6d.

PEACE SOCIETY.

**THE Twenty-sixth ANNUAL MEETING** of the Society for the Promotion of Permanent and Universal Peace will be held on TUESDAY EVENING, May 17, 1842, at the FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE, Houndsditch. The Chair to be taken by JOSEPH BROTHERTON, Esq., M.P., at Six o'clock precisely.

N.B. Subscriptions and Donations, in aid of the Funds, received by Mr ALEXANDER BROCKWAY, at the Office of the Society, No. 19, New Broad Street, Finsbury Circus.

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**A LETTER to WILLIAM GURNEY,** Esq., on the Past and Present State of the BAPTIST MISSION in the Island of JAMAICA, especially in connexion with the Baptist Western Union. By WILLIAM KNIBB.

"By their fruits shall ye know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"

JAMAICA.

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**THE SPEECH** of the Rev. WILLIAM KNIBB, delivered at Exeter Hall, April 28th, 1842, before the Baptist Missionary Society. To which is prefixed a LETTER to W. B. GURNEY, Esq., with much additional information. Price 1s.

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**AT a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Members of the BRADFORD UNITED REFORM CLUB, convened by Public Notice in the Rooms of the Club, on Friday, May 6, "To consider whether any and what opinion should be expressed on the recent controversy between Henry Forbes, Esq., and the *Leeds Mercury*."

It was moved by HENRY BROWN, Esq., seconded by Rev. J. ACWORTH, A.M., President of Horton College, and supported by the Rev. W. Scott, President of Aire-dale College, the Revs Messrs Pottenger, Clowes, and Cook, by Titus Salt, Esq., and other gentlemen, and carried unanimously—

"That this meeting fully recognises the right of the conductors of the public press to form an independent opinion of political movements, and freely to express the same. Nevertheless, it is of opinion, that the conductors of the *Leeds Mercury*, in various recent articles, condemnatory of the movement party, and especially in an article of the 5th of March last, entitled, "The Chartists and their New Converts," have made an unkind, ungenerous, and unfair representation of the conduct of those who are honestly endeavouring to effect a reconciliation between the middle and working classes, and have invidiously sought to injure a cause which many of the wisest and best men of the age are zealously supporting.

"That this meeting fully sympathises with the indignant reproof administered to the conductors of the *Mercury* by Henry Forbes, Esq., and have witnessed with the highest satisfaction, the bold and effective manner in which he has defended himself against the attacks of that journal; and they hereby tender to that gentleman their warm and hearty thanks for his moral courage in encountering such a formidable antagonist, in defence of a principle which has been received and acted upon in all ages."

(Signed) TITUS SALT, Chairman.

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The Directors give Notice,

1st. That the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the PROPRIETORS will be held, at Twelve o'clock precisely, on Saturday, the 14th day of May next, at the Offices of the Company, No. 62, King William Street, in the city of London.

2nd. That at such Meeting the Proprietors who then hold Ten or more Shares, which they have possessed for six calendar months, may attend and vote.

3rd. That three Directors, W. T. Beeby, Esq., Richard Hollier, Esq., and Thomas B. Simpson, Esq., and one Auditor, J. G. Cope, Esq., retire by lot, all of whom are re-eligible to their respective appointments, for which they will be accordingly proposed. And,

4th. That any other Proprietors duly qualified, who shall be desirous of becoming Candidates for any of those situations, must give written notice of their intention at the Offices to the Secretary, at least ten days previous to the time of such Meeting.

By Order of the Directors,

27th April, 1842.

THOMAS PRICE, Sec.

Printed and Published at the Office, a No. 4, Crane Court, Fleet Street, near Fetter Lane, in the City of London, by JOHN HENRY DAVIS, of No. 76, York Road, Lambeth, in the county of Surrey, on WEDNESDAY, 11th of MAY, 1842.